Author: Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture

Title: Weekly news bulletin, v. 30

Place of Publication: Harrisburg, Pa.

Copyright Date: 1945

Master Negative Storage Number: MNS# PSt SNPaAg103.17

Volume 30, 1945

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, January 4, 1945 | No. 1

1944 Crop Production 7 Pct. Greater Than 1943; Value Increases 22 Pct.

PRODUCTION of principal field and fruit crops in Pennsylvania for 1944 was 7 per cent greater on a tonnage basis, and the estimated value of $275,-209,000 compares with $225,716,000 in 1943, or an increase of 22 per cent, the Department announced in an initial report on estimates of Pennsylvania crop production for the year 1944, compiled by the Federal State Crop Reporting Service.

The 22 per cent increase in value compares with 21 per cent increase in 1943 over 1942. Prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for all crops produced in 1944 are not expected to average so high as those for the 1943 crops.

The jump in total value is due to increased production. Field crops were up 5 per cent, grains alone 22 per cent, and fruits 76 per cent. Barley and hay are the only crops which fell below 1943 in production. In average prices received, grains were 3 per cent and all field crops 5 per cent higher, but fruit prices dropped 14 per cent below the level for 1943 production.

1944 Production Records

Total 1944 acreages, production and values, compared with 1943, follow:

Corn—53,580,000 bushels valued at $79,298,000 compared with 49,172,000 last year worth $68,349,000. The 1944 acreage was 1,410,000, an increase of 116,000. Value $1.48 per bushel, $56.24 per acre, compared with $1.39 and $52.82, in 1943. Yield per acre was 38 bushels, the same as in 1943.

Wheat—20,288,000 bushels valued at $30,432,000 compared with 13,435,000 bushels in 1943 worth $20,690,000. Acreage 923,000 an increase of 133,000. Value $1.50 per bushel, $32.97 per acre, compared with $1.54 and $26.19. Yield per acre was 22 bushels; 17 in 1943.

Oats—23,912,000 bushels valued at $20,564,000 compared with 14,878,000 bushels last year worth $13,241,000. Acreage 839,000, an increase of 76,000. Value $.86 per bushel, $24.51 per acre, compared with $.89 and $17.35. Yield per acre was 28.5 bushels; 19.5 in 1943.

Barley—2,632,000 bushels valued at $3,316,000 compared with 2,750,000 bushels in 1943 worth $2,915,000. Acreage 94,000, a decrease of 31,000. Value $1.26 per bushel, $35.28 per acre, compared with $1.06 and $23.32. Yield per acre was 28 bushels; 22 in 1943.

Rye—735,000 bushels valued at $919,-000 compared with 624,000 bushels last year worth $686,000. Acreage 49,000, an increase of 1,000. Value $1.25 per bushel, $18.76 per acre, compared with $1.10 and $14.29. Yield per acre was 15 bushels; 13 in 1943.

Buckwheat—2,940,000 bushels valued at $3,381,000 compared with 2,508,000 bushels in 1943 worth $3,260,000. Acreage 147,000, an increase of 15,000. Value $1.15 per bushel, $23.00 per acre, compared with $1.30 and $24.70. Yield per acre was 20 bushels; 19 in 1943.

Potatoes—19,140,000 bushels valued at $34,452,000 compared with 18,656,000 bushels last year worth $30,782,000. Acreage 165,000, a decrease of 11,000. Value $1.80 per bushel, $208.80 per acre, compared with $1.65 and $174.90. Yield per acre was 116 bushels; 106 in 1943.

Tobacco—50,865,000 pounds valued at $9,474,000 compared with 40,014,000 pounds in 1943 worth $7,455,000. Acreage 33,900, an increase of 2,200. Value 18.6 cents per pound, $279.47 per acre, compared with 18.6 cents which was the same as last year and $235.17. Yield per acre was 1,500 pounds; 1,262 in 1943.

Tame Hay—3,216,000 tons valued at $63,677,000 compared with 3,399,000 tons last year worth $58,123,000. Acreage 2,232,000, a decrease of 10,000. Value $19.80 December 1 price per ton, $28.53 per acre, compared with $17.10 and $25.92. Yield per acre was 1.44 tons; 1.52 in 1943.

Apples (Commercial)—9,100,000 bushels valued at $19,419,000 compared with 5,070,000 bushels in 1943 worth $12,-776,000. Average price per bushel $2.20 compared with $2.52 in 1943.

Peaches—1,886,000 bushels valued at $5,658,000 compared with 1,176,000 bushels last year worth $4,822,000. Average price per bushel $3.00 compared with $4.10 last year.

Pears—464,000 bushels valued at $789,000 compared with 174,000 bushels in 1943, worth $392,000. Average price per bushel $1.70 compared with $2.25 in 1943.

Cherries—10,600 tons valued at $1,-978,000 compared with 3,600 tons last year worth $846,000. Average price per ton $187.00 compared with $236.00 last year.

Grapes—19,500 tons valued at $1,-852,000 compared with 15,300 tons in 1943 worth $1,377,000. Average price per ton $95.00 compared with $90.00 in 1943.

Hottest May of Record

The year 1944 to December 1 was warmer and drier than the corresponding period of 1943, according to the Harrisburg office of the Weather Bureau. A daily temperature excess of 0.2 degree was accumulated, while precipitation was deficient by 2.4 inches. After the driest winter of record, precipitation was above normal through June, delaying field work and planting. The hottest May of record favored plant growth but, thereafter, high summer temperatures combined with deficient rainfall to retard crop development. Drought conditions were increasingly serious in the east and September's rain was too late to be of material benefit to many crops. Absence of killing frost until October 15 permitted ample time for harvesting and field work.

Crop Comments

Corn—The 1944 corn crop was 9 per cent larger than the 1943 crop, due to a 9 percent increase in acreage. Plantings, though late, were expanded beyond earlier expectations. Much acreage suffered from dry weather. Many yields were low and abandonment higher than usual. November weather favored harvesting.

Wheat—An increase of 17 per cent in the acreage of winter wheat and a record yield of 22 bushels per acre resulted in a production of wheat 51 per cent larger than the crop of 1943. Abandonment was relatively light. What promised, from December 1942 condition, to be a poor crop turned out to be one of the best. Root system was excellent and with favorable May weather, development was surprisingly good. Thorn contributed greatly to the high yield.

Other Grains—Despite the unfavorable season for planting oats, the acreage put in was about the same as in 1943, when abandonment was very heavy. Vicland is growing in popularity and better yields are to be expected. The winter barley acreage was reduced sharply by dry weather at planting time, and abandonment from winter killing was relatively heavy. Lateness of the summer harvest, dry weather at plowing time, and shortage of help held down the increase in buckwheat acreage. Much was planted late, some was caught by hot, dry weather at blossoming, and some by frost. Abandonment was rather heavy.

Soybeans—Acreage of soybeans for beans declined from 45,000 in 1943 to 34,000 in 1944.

Potatoes—Experience of growers with the 1943 crop, scarcity of labor, and uncertainty with regard to machinery contributed to reduction in potato acreage. The crop was threatened with disaster by the dry weather of July and August, but late varieties still green were greatly improved by September and October rains. Many early potatoes were small.

Tobacco—Little transplanting of tobacco had been done by the end of May, but it continued until late in July. Frost did not come until mid-October, by which time the harvest was practically over. Early plantings yielded best and the in-between poorest. September rains helped late crops.

Fruits—All fruits were relatively large crops this year. Compared with last year, apple production was up 79 per cent, peaches 60 per cent, pears 167 per cent, cherries 194 per cent, and grapes 27 per cent. Fall weather, with sufficient rain to size fruits, was generally ideal for harvest. Apples finished nicely, size and quality exceeding earlier expectations. Peaches were small due to dry weather. The demand for pears was relatively good and greater care was given the crop. Sour cherries were a big crop in Adams County and fairly large in Erie County. Yields of grapes in the Erie belt were good, but damage by berry moth in some vineyards was considerable.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM HIRED HANDS WORK LESS; GET MORE PAY

WHILE Pennsylvania farm operators report they are putting in an average of nearly 12 hours at work each day, hired help is averaging nearly 2 hours per day less and being paid at the highest average rates ever known in the State, according to surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Farm operators on December 1 were working 11.7 hours per day compared with 12 hours on the same date last year. Hired hands were averaging 9.9 hours per day, whereas a year earlier they were putting in 10.2 hours.

All classifications of farm wages reached record highs in the latest survey, as of October 1.

Hired farm hands working by the day without board then were receiving an average of $4.35 per day, an increase of 35 cents per day over the wage paid on the same date a year earlier. Those working by the day with board were receiving an average of $3.55, an increase of 35 cents for the year.

Farm wages per month with board in October reached an all-time high average of $58.50 an increase of $7.75 in the 12-month period. Pay per month without board was $86.25 compared with $76.25 received by hired workers at the same time a year earlier.

Total farm employment in the Nation showed a drop of 2 per cent as of December 1, compared with the number of workers a year ago. The report did not give an estimate for Pennsylvania.

SHARP DROP IN HOG PRODUCTION FOR 1944

IN KEEPING with the national trend to avoid an over-supply of pork, hog production in Pennsylvania in 1944 dropped sharply from the all-time peak reached in 1943, and a continuation of the decline is in prospect for 1945, according to the annual fall pig crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The 1944 fall pig crop, totalling 483,-000 pigs saved from litters between June 1 and December 1, is down approximately 36 per cent from the 759,-000 pigs saved in the same period of 1943. The total Pennsylvania pig crop of 1,053,000 for the current year is slightly more than 22 per cent below 1943 production of 1,357,000.

There are indications that the 1945 spring pig crop will be reduced more drastically than was the spring crop for 1944. According to reported intentions of Pennsylvania farmers only 64,000 sows will farrow between December 1, 1944 and June 1, 1945, compared with 85,000 that had litters in the same period for 1943-44. For the fall pig crop, 71,000 sows farrowed compared with 115,000 between June 1 and December 1, 1943.

The size of fall pig litters this year averaged 6.8 pigs compared with 6.6 pigs in 1943.

Nationally, the fall pig crop of 1944, totaling more than 31 million head, is down 32 per cent from the fall of 1943. Total production for the year is close to 87 million and is down 29 per cent.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, January 11, 1945 | No. 2

Farmer's Dollar Value Drops 3c In Span of Year

PURCHASING power of the Pennsylvania farmer's dollar, on the basis of the dollar averaging one hundred cents in the period 1909 to 1914, on December 15 was worth $1.23 which was three cents less than on the same date a year earlier, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Between November 15 and December 15 price adjustments were such that the purchasing power increased one cent, from $1.22.

On the 1909-14 base of 100, the index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased 2 points to 211 during the month ended December 15. Crops advanced 3 points to 207 and livestock and livestock products went up 1 point to 212.

Average prices received by farmers for wheat moved up during this period a total of 4 cents a bushel, potatoes advanced 5 cents and hay $1.40 per ton. Corn was down 6 cents per bushel, barley 2 cents, rye 1 cent, and buckwheat dropped 2 cents.

Advances in poultry and eggs carried the group index up 6 points to 205, but dairy products reflected no change from a month previous. The level of prices of all farm products is one point higher than a year ago.

Some prices received by farmers as of December 15 include: potatoes $1.75; apples $2.15; chickens 28 cents per pound, live weight; turkeys 42.8 cents per pound live weight; eggs 51.6 cents per dozen; wheat $1.54 per bushel, corn $1.33, and oats 78 cents per bushel.

Prices received at local markets by farmers in the United States are now at the highest level since September 1920. With non-agricultural income payments remaining at a record high level, there is still no evidence of weakness in the demand for farm products.

Pennsylvania price comparisons follow:

	Dec. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1944	Dec. 15 1944
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.62	$ 1.50	$ 1.54
Corn, Bu.	1.36	1.39	1.33
Oats, Bu.	.92	.78	.78
Barley, Bu.	1.25	1.20	1.18
Rye, Bu.	1.20	1.22	1.21
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.34	1.05	1.03
Soybeans, Bu.	1.80	2.00	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	1.70	1.70	1.75
Hay, loose, Ton	17.20	18.00	19.40
Apples, Bu.	2.60	2.15	2.15
Hogs, Cwt.	13.60	14.30	14.20
Beef, Cattle, Cwt.	11.50	12.70	12.70
Veal, Calves, Cwt.	13.90	15.50	15.50
Sheep, Cwt.	5.30	4.65	4.65
Lambs, Cwt.	12.70	12.90	12.80
Milk cows, Head	154.00	149.00	147.00
Horses, Head	127.00	107.00	108.00
Mules, Head	134.00	124.00	124.00
Chickens, Lb.	.279	.276	.280
Turkeys, Lb.	.409	.41	.428
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.70	3.70	3.70
Milk, retail, Qt.	.142	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.50	.49	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.520	.499	.516
Wool, Lb.	.43	.42	.43

Cows Up—Horses Down

WHILE the average price received by Pennsylvania farmers for milk cows on December 15 was more than twice as much received for the 5-year period, 1935 to 1939, prices received for horses and mules showed a decided drop by comparison, according to a recent Federal-State survey.

Milk cows are now averaging $147 per head compared with the 1935-39 average of $72.12. On December 15 horses were bringing $108 per head compared with the pre-war average of $139.50. Farmers were receiving $124 a head for mules in December compared with $142.12 for the 5-year average.

Cabbage and sweet corn were the only commercial truck crops to exceed $1,000,000 in value in 1944.

Strawberries Up

WHILE the 1944 Pennsylvania strawberry crop of 210,000 crates for fresh market was 17 per cent less than the 1943 crop, it had a value that was 6 per cent greater, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service declares.

Total value of the crop, grown on 3,500 acres, was estimated at $1,869,000. The 1943 crop grown on 3,600 acres was worth $1,764,000.

Strawberries gave a gross financial return to the grower of an average of $534 per acre this year compared with $490 per acre in 1943. Production was estimated at 60 crates of 24 quarts each per acre, each crate averaging $8.90 in value.

TOBACCO STOCKS HIT LOWEST IN 5 YEARS

TOTALING approximately 95 million pounds, stocks of Pennsylvania cigar leaf tobacco—Seedleaf and Havana Seed—in the hands of dealers and manufacturers on October 1 reached their lowest point for that date since 1939, according to a Federal-State survey. This represents a drop of 2.3 per cent from stocks reported on October 1, 1943.

Observers say the low stocks are the result of declining production since 1941. The report notes that, compared with 1943 three times as many cigars were shipped overseas in 1944.

The report said that "a substantial increase in cigar filler and binder tobacco production in 1945 appears to be justified." The goal for 1945 in Pennsylvania has been set at 36.200 acres for Seedleaf (Type 41), which compares with 33,300 last year and 31,400 acres in 1943. The objective for Havana Seed (Type 53) for 1945 will be 400 acres, compared with 300 acres harvested in 1943 and 1944. These increases are approximately 9 per cent over the 1944 acreage.

Tobacco stocks held by dealers and manufacturers on October 1 totaled 94.048,000 pounds of Seedleaf compared with 96,664,000 pounds held October 1 of last year, and 109,207,000 on the same date in 1942. Havana Seed stocks on October 1 totaled 1,873,000 pounds against 1,528,000 on last October 1 and 2,581.000 pounds on the same date in 1942.

The current year's tobacco production in Pennsylvania was slightly more than 50 million pounds of both types, the highest since the 1941 crop of 58 million pounds.

At the end of the 12th week of the 1944-45 Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Test, the average number of eggs laid per bird was slightly more than 55, which was 7.5 higher than production for the same period in the last contest.

Staymans Lead in Apple Variety Poll With Yorks Second

NEARLY 35 per cent of all Stayman apples grown commercially in the United States in 1944 came from Pennsylvania, and this variety held first place in production in the State for the second consecutive year, according to an apple variety survey compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The York Imperial was second highest in 1944 production of commercial apples in Pennsylvania. Keystone orchards produced a little more than 20 per cent of the National crop of Imperials, the 1,365,000 bushels representing 15 per cent of the State's total apple crop of 9,100,000 bushels. The 3,003,000 bushels of Staymans made up 33 per cent of the total State commercial apple crop.

Ranking third in production this past year was Rome Beauty with 1,001,000 bushels or 11 per cent of the State total and 14.6 per cent of the National production for this variety.

Delicious, which in 1944 took first rank in National production with 22,182,000 bushels, was in fourth place in Pennsylvania production with 728,000 bushels or 8 per cent of the total State crop for all varieties.

These four leaders are all winter varieties. Other winter varieties in order of percentage in production in Pennsylvania include: Ben Davis or Gano, Golden Delicious and McIntosh, each 3 per cent; Baldwin, Black Twig and Cortland, 2 per cent each; Northern Spy and Winesap, 1 per cent each.

All summer varieties of apples produced commercially in Pennsylvania during 1944 totaled 182,000 bushels or 2 per cent of the total State crop. Fall varieties totaling 1,001,000 bushels were led by Jonathan, 6 per cent of the crop, followed by Grimes Golden and Wealthy at 2 per cent each.

Pennsylvania's total commercial apple crop for 1944 was 7.3 per cent of the national crop of 124,212,000 bushels.

NEED CO-OPS

IF small farmers are to stay in business after the war they will need the assistance of farmer-cooperative organizations for selling their produce and buying supplies, Secretary Horst recently told area leaders of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, meeting in Scranton.

All farmers should begin now to give serious consideration to post-war production and marketing problems if they are to meet competition and price adjustments that will follow the peace, he said in a discussion of matters pertaining to current and post-war agriculture.

1945 Winter Wheat Forecast

PRODUCTION of 19 million bushels of winter wheat from Pennsylvania farms in 1945 is forecast in the annual wheat and rye plantings report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. This is 1,108,000 bushels below production in 1944, based on long-time averages. The average yield of 22 bushels per acre in 1944 was abnormally high.

Observers said this estimate is conservative in view of an increase of 19,000 acres seeded this fall for harvest next summer, compared with that seeded for 1944 harvest. Farmers have indicated a total seeding of 950,000 acres to winter wheat this year, a 2 per cent increase.

Conditions of the winter wheat fields is reported much better than a year ago. Although much seeding of both wheat and rye was late, fall weather was open and mild. Stands are heavy, well advanced and of good color. Condition on December 1 was reported 90 per cent of normal, compared with 82 per cent a year earlier.

Pennsylvania acreage of rye is estimated at 50,000 which is 13,000 acres less than was planted in the fall of 1943. This is due in part to a shortage of good seed in some localities, and weather for planting wheat and barley was favorable. No estimate has been made on rye production for 1945 harvest. The 1944 crop totaled 735,000 bushels.

The report states that many Pennsylvania winter wheat growers are turning to Thorne, a relatively new variety which winters, stands up and yields well.

The State's total wheat crop for 1944 amounted to 20,288.000 bushels, averaging $1.50 per bushel, or a total value of $30,432,000. The average value per acre was $32.97. The average yield was 22 bushels per acre, compared with 17 in 1943 and 19.6 for the 10-year period, 1933 to 1942.

The indicated National 1945 winter wheat production is 761,591,000 bushels. This is about two and a half million bushels less than the 1944 crop which was the second largest on record. Acreage was increased 7 per cent over that seeded for 1944 harvest.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, January 18, 1945 — No. 3

Serious Groups Talk Over Many Problems At 1945 State Farm Show Week Meetings

JUDGING from the seriousness of purpose that was evident in all meetings of agricultural associations during the 1945 State Farm Show Week, January 9-11, farmers of Pennsylvania will make every effort to raise more food in 1945 than in any other war year, Secretary Horst said at the conclusion of the approximately 70 sessions conducted by 23 state-wide organizations under sponsorship of the State Farm Show Commission.

At the opening convocation on Tuesday evening, January 9, Governor Martin declared that because of recent setbacks in the European war "there must not be any slowdown in producing food for war." Additional incentive for production came in the address of Albert S. Goss, Master of the National Grange, before the Dairymen's Association the following night, when he told of the need for greater production effort in both agriculture and industry through prolongation of the war.

Many other speakers pointed to immediate needs in efficient production, consideration of post-war production, marketing, distribution, and maintenance of agriculture on a more equal basis with industry through which a high level of food consumption might be assured.

In summarizing results of the annual meetings, attended by approximately 3,000 persons, Secretary Horst said discussions proved to be highly instructive and most profitable.

"Farmers showed a determination to get along as best they could with what they have," he said. "Most have accepted the shortage of labor, machinery, seeds or equipment, and will take chances with what they can get for the remainder of the war. More problems will be solved through producer initiative. Records of production for the past year prove that we can get ahead if we do our part. Our farmers have shown a quality of spirit and effort proving they can meet wartime problems successfully."

Urge Caution in Draft

A matter which was discussed by most groups was the order of the President for Selective Service reclassification of all deferred farm workers, 18 through 25 years of age, which came just a few days before the Farm Show Week meetings opened. A number of organizations passed resolutions urging draft boards to use their best judgment in making such reclassifications, pointing to the reduction in food production that would come about through the removal of trained workers from farms.

Typical action was that by the State Council of Farm Organizations which asked "for the best interests of the war effort, that young men engaged in full time agricultural employment be continued in Class 2-C," and the request of the Dairymen's Association that Selective Service authorities "proceed cautiously in taking . . . boys who are bona fide dairy and farm employees." Through a poll of 112 potato growers it was learned that they could handle only 53 per cent of their 1944 acreage in 1945 if they were to lose all workers in the age group.

Post-War Outlook

More than ordinary interest was displayed in the post-war outlook for agriculture, and the relation of farm income to national income. On this subject Walter D. Fuller, president of the Curtis Publishing Company and regional director of the Committee for Economic Development, a group that is endeavoring to find how the fullest possible employment can be attained after the war, said in discussing a larger peace time economy:

"We will see that there not only must be, but that there actually is a bigger peacetime market than we have anticipated. But is it big enough? Agricultural production, per worker, for the country as a whole averaged 25 per cent more in 1940-43 than in the 1935-39 period. Our goal must be at least that high in peacetime, when there will be more labor and more modern machinery available. The businessmen of America know that every possible move must be made to insure that the income level does not decline when the war is won. Any continuing recession would be a national calamity."

Various other speakers touched similarly on the post-war outlook, and some predicted that foreign markets for many agricultural products after the war will not come up to earlier expectations, particularly in the war-torn countries of Europe where injury to agricultural production has not been overly severe.

FARM FLOCKS SET NEW RECORD FOR EGG PRODUCTION

PENNSYLVANIA farm flocks established an all-time high record for production during 1944, with a grand total of 2,800,000,000 eggs, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The record production is 7 per cent higher than for 1943 and 19 per cent above 1942.

Production for December established a record high for that month, a total of 210 million. Production of 10.91 eggs per layer also was an all-time high for the month.

The report states that recent requests by the government urging increased production over previous goals set for 1945, will probably show larger numbers of young chickens than normally in farm flocks during the spring months.

On January 1, 1945 there were about 10 per cent less young chickens and 10 per cent more old hens on farms of crop correspondents than on the same date a year previous.

The number of layers in Pennsylvania farm flocks made about the usual seasonal increase over November, and for December was placed at 19,238.000. To some extent this increase reflects the improved feed situation, but more likely is an indication of the improved demand for poultry and eggs, the report said.

Commercial poultrymen reported the egg-feed price ratio for December as only slightly improved from November, but better than a year ago. It took the value of 77 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed in December, compared with 78 in November and 83 in December of 1943. Prices received for eggs averaged 50.8 cents per dozen, and for live chickens 26.8 cents per pound in December.

'44 MILK OUTPUT 2D HIGHEST ON RECORD

ESTIMATES by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service show that milk production in the State during 1944 was 2 per cent above 1943 but 1 per cent below the record production of 1942. Production is given as 4,973,000,000 pounds, second highest since records were started in 1929.

December production totaled 386,000,000 pounds, 4 per cent above November and 9 per cent higher than for the same month in 1943.

Correspondents of the Crop Reporting Service reported the highest average number of milk cows per farm ever recorded for the State. Another new high was established in the amount of grain fed per cow during the month of December.

The report says fresh cows are scarce and bringing high prices. Stock generally is wintering well and the water situation has been improved in most localities.

Unfavorable factors include the rapid depletion of grain feed, hay and roughage supplies on dairy farms due to the unusually long period of barn feeding now necessary to maintain production.

LETTUCE LEADS IN '44 VALUE PER ACRE

LETTUCE proved to be the leader in value per acre among the 12 principal commercial truck crops harvested for market in Pennsylvania in 1944, according to the annual year-end survey of vegetable production made by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

On the average, the 350 acres devoted to the commercial growing of lettuce gave a gross return of $525.71 per acre. The total value of the 1944 crop was $184,000, a slight increase over 1943.

Second in value per acre were carrots, averaging a gross return of $420 per acre. Onions were in third place, valued at $405 per acre, beets $395, and asparagus $380 per acre.

The total farm value of the 12 principal crops for the 1944 marketing season is estimated at $8,607,000, which is 18 per cent less than their 1943 value. The total acreage devoted to commercial truck crops in 1944 is estimated to be 34,550 compared with 36,240 in 1943, a decrease of 5 per cent.

Sweet corn and cabbage were the only truck crops which exceeded one million dollars in value in 1944. The crop of 55 million ears of sweet corn was valued at $1,232,000, slightly more than in 1943, with an estimated acre-value of $112. Production of cabbage, both domestic and Danish, totaled more than 35,000 tons valued at $1,393,000.

MEAT INSPECTIONS PROVE PROFITABLE

IN THE course of inspections to assure consumers getting only wholesome meats, the meat hygiene division of the Bureau of Animal Industry during 1944 found 36 slaughter houses were operating under unsanitary conditions and ordered 22 of them closed when warnings to "clean up" were disregarded.

According to Dr. C. P. Bishop, bureau director, there has been gratifying improvement in the operation of slaughtering establishments over the State. He pointed out that in 1943 no less than 217 such places had to be ordered closed. The decrease in 1944 is a credit to the cooperation of owners and managers of slaughter houses, especially in times when there is a shortage of experienced workers in this field, he said.

Hygiene division inspectors made a total of 7,482 examinations of slaughtering establishments in the State during 1944, approximately the same number as in the previous year when 340 were found in an unsatisfactory condition

Nearly 600,000 animals were slaughtered under the supervision of inspectors and of these a total of 2,310 had to be condemned as unfit for human consumption. More than 58,000 dressed carcases were inspected, and 62 were condemned.

WATCH LABELING

A REQUEST to growers and distributors of fruit and potatoes to observe the Pennsylvania grading and labeling law has been issued by the Bureau of Markets.

Due to the unusual production and marketing problems arising from the war effort, the greatest care has not always been exercised by growers and shippers in the proper grade labeling of apples and potatoes sold in the State, it was said.

The State law providing for proper labeling of the contents of a package of fruit or potatoes came about through desire of the potato and fruit industries to protect the public against misbranding. The act is designed to give growers, packers, shippers, wholesale and retail distributors as well as consumers the proper grade labeling of all apples and potatoes sold in closed packages in the State.

Pa 124/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, January 25, 1945 | No. 4

GOVERNOR MARTIN SETS UP OBJECTIVES FOR PENNA. FARMERS

THERE must not be any slowdown in producing food for war, Governor Edward Martin said in his address at the opening general session of the 29th annual State Farm Show Week in Harrisburg, Tuesday evening, January 9.

"The situation is serious; we need all that can be produced," he declared in emphasizing objectives that are of special concern to Pennsylvania farmers at this time. He said food is the greatest weapon in war and in recent weeks it has become plainer than ever that food will win the war. He paid tribute to farm people for establishing new records in food production in war years. The Governor continued:

"Agriculture is only one part of our national economy. It prospers in peace time when labor is fully employed and industry can sell its products. Agriculture, labor and industry are mutually dependent. The three should plan together for the good of the entire country. Low taxes, good markets and less government help them all.

"We must cooperate in holding established markets and in using every aid that will insure efficient production. Every farm will need a sound production program in the post-war period.

"Agriculture will be about the only industry in this country that will come to the end of the war actually meeting all requirements. Industry will be ready and anxious to reconvert, or resume production of vital necessities that the public has not been able to buy for years. The demand will create months and even years of continuing work for industry.

"Agriculture will not have such opportunities. England and the liberated countries of Europe are said, even now, to be growing enough potatoes to supply their needs. Our armed forces will no longer need vast quantities of what ordinarily would be surplus food. There will be a day when the food surplus may be dangerous to our farms. Unless we take steps now to meet this situation, all agricultural enterprise may be injured.

Self-help Emphasized

"The public cannot be asked to subsidize inefficient production. Such a plan would eventually bankrupt the government and make us a socialist State. In the post-war period governmental policy should be aimed at improving the ability of the people to help themselves, and not toward their permanent support on glorified relief rolls. This means education, not regimentation; information, not direction, and government as an arbiter and not a participant.

"Farmers as a whole believe in competitive free enterprise. We must keep on emphasizing research and education in agriculture. Progress in these fields, plus power-farming, has made possible the tremendous strength in food production that has been shown in this war period.

"The United States enjoys the highest standard of living of any country. This has resulted from freedom of opportunity, ingenuity, energy and the desire to get ahead. The American farm has been the bulwark of free enterprise, individual initiative and personal freedom—upon which the American way of life is based. From the days of Lexington and Concord our young men have fought to preserve these foundations of our nation."

The Governor reported that the Committee on Agriculture of the State Post-War Planning Commission has made studies and recommendations on such subjects as land use and conservation, efficient production, marketing and distribution. "The Committee finds that most farm post-war problems may well be left to the initiative of the farmers themselves. But it agrees that in certain problems the Government can and should help."

CORN AGAIN KING

CORN once more is king of crops on Pennsylvania farms, being designated the leader in value for 1944, according to recently compiled records of crop production and value, compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

In a war year when corn was vitally needed for feeding livestock and poultry on Pennsylvania farms, and despite labor and machinery shortages, the corn acreage was increased in 1944 by 116,000 acres. Production of nearly 53,600,000 bushels, valued at $1.48 per bushel, was worth approximately $79,-300,000, nearly one-third of the total value of all 1944 field and fruit crops.

Pennsylvania production last year was sufficient to rank the State 15th in the Nation as a corn state, an advance of one place over its standing in 1943. The State also ranks 15th in value, an advance of two places over the previous year when it was 17th.

In yield per acre, Pennsylvania in 1944 ranked among the leaders, being credited with 11th place, advancing from 13th. Yield per acre was 38 bushels, the same as in 1943. The advance in position was made despite drought conditions that existed for the best part of the summer in the principal corn producing counties.

In tackling the additional acreage for the growing of corn in 1944, Pennsylvania farmers were able to make still another gain in rank for the State. In the number of acres devoted to the growing of corn the State last year was in 22nd place in the Nation, whereas in 1943 it was 24th. The 1944 acreage totaled 1,410,000.

In consideration of the drought conditions that existed last summer, observers say that one of the major factors in Pennsylvania's increasing importance as a corn State is due in large part to greater use by farmers of hybrid seed corn which has proved its ability to stand up under dry and hot weather.

FARMERS ASKED TO COOPERATE IN CENSUS

COOPERATION of all farmers of Pennsylvania in the 1945 Federal Census of Agriculture has been urged by Secretary Horst. Enumerators started gathering information on January 8 through visits to farm homes where they are required to get such necessary data as numbers of livestock and poultry, crop acreages, farm workers, equipment and production figures. The census is a Federal project provided by an act of Congress.

Data obtained in this farm census are of great value to all farmers, the Secretary said. From them the Department of Agriculture and its Federal-State Crop Reporting Service are able to check all annual estimates, and thereby keep farmers advised on actual production and on trends in production for crops and livestock.

Agricultural census takers have been working under severe handicaps caused by snow-blocked country roads and lanes. Cooperation in speeding the survey when the enumerator calls will be most helpful, the Secretary said. Census takers are sworn to secrecy and can be punished if they give out any of the information they collect.

Corn for grain on farms January 1 totaled 32,288,000 bushels, 17 per cent higher than a year previous. Wheat stocks totaled 8,115,000 bushels, up 47 per cent, and the oats holdings amounted to 15,782,000 bushels, 68 per cent more than a year earlier. December 1 barley stocks, estimated at 1,395,000 bushels, were down 4 per cent compared with December 1, 1943, and the rye stocks of 331,000 bushels were down 7 per cent.

1945 VICTORY GARDENS MORE IMPORTANT THAN IN ANY WAR YEAR

THE FOLLOWING statement was made recently before the State Victory Garden Committee of the State Council of Defense by Secretary Horst:

"Victory gardens will be more important in 1945 than in any other war year. The State, national and international food situation is tightening up. Ration points have been restored or increased on most canned fruits and vegetables, indicating scarcity.

"The acreage of commercial truck crops harvested for market in Pennsylvania last year, excluding strawberries, dropped 5 per cent from the 1943 acreage. While the acreage for commercial processing increased 7 per cent, there was no comparable increase in civilian supplies of canned goods.

"The growing of commercial vegetables requires a vast amount of hand labor. The supply of skilled farm labor is still decreasing. Truck growers will be forced this year to compete for labor to a greater degree than ever before. Their production costs will go up.

"There is little or no incentive now for commercial vegetable growers to increase their acreages this year over 1944, beyond a patriotic effort to provide food for war. They will be forced to plant only such acreages as they can handle with what labor they can hope to get.

"Through our Federal-State Crop Reporting Service we learn that 1944 national production of small or light vegetable seeds (beet, cabbage, cucumber, radish, etc.) was the largest on record, 44 per cent greater than 1943. However, there was a great reduction in the amounts of bean and pea seed, and the aggregate of all seeds available for 1945 planting dropped more than 67 million pounds, or nearly 20 per cent below 1943 production.

"According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the supply of fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides is expected to be not quite so good this year as last. They say Victory gardeners should not have difficulty in buying what they need, but orders should be placed early. Rotenone supplies should be about the same as last year.

More Food Needed

"Dispatches this week from Washington intimate that recent changes in point rationing of foods were not based entirely on prolongation of the war. It was pointed out that growing conditions throughout the world have deteriorated. Europe is reported to be experiencing the most damaging floods in a hundred years; lack of seed, machinery and labor has remove North Africa as an important producer; droughts have struck Australia; Britian has contracted for heavy food supplies from Canada, New Zealand and Australia for several years to come. Lend-lease requirements may be expected to increase.

"Pennsylvania farmers, although acreage goals for many farm crops have been set higher this year than for last, will depend largely upon the labor factor in final decisions. Each war year has seen a decline in the trained farm labor supply. Now farm machinery is getting tighter: older machines are wearing out, with replacement parts harder to get.

"In the control of plant insects and diseases, it is very important that all plant and weed refuse be removed from 1944 Victory gardens and burned before April 15. Work of this nature that was done last year, together with dry weather conditions, greatly aided reduction of infestation by the European corn borer and other pests.

"I am convinced that Victory gardens will be more important as a source of family food reserves in 1945 than in any other war year. More food must be grown at home."

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, February 1, 1945 | No. 5

FIFTEEN MORE FAIRS HELD LAST YEAR WITH ATTENDANCE OF 1,324,401

FIFTEEN more county and community fairs were held in 1944 than in the previous year, and attendance was boosted by more than 300,000, according to official reports by fair associations to the Department.

A total of 55 fairs have been certified by the Department to receive state aid for payment of premiums, compared with 40 that were certified as eligible in 1943.

Attendance at 1944 county and community fairs was reported as 1,324,401, compared with 1,006,865 the previous year and 1,571,455 in 1942.

From admissions, concessions and other sources the 55 fairs received $764,814.26, compared with $500,376.12 in 1943. Expenses, exclusive of premiums paid, amounted to $628,-898.90, an increase of $248,622.23. Premiums totaled $86,811.99 compared with $64,526.05. State aid for premiums totaled $35,867.48, an increase of $14,508.03.

Through action by the 1943 Legislature, a county or community fair association may discontinue its exposition for the duration of the war and remain eligible for state aid for premiums when they resume operations, provided they notify the Department of Agriculture before December 15 of each year that war conditions prevented the holding of the fair in that year.

Sworn affivadits to that effect were filed in 1944 by the officers of 36 fair associations. One association reported too late and 25 others failed to report.

This indicates that after the war more than 90 county and community fair associations will be eligible for state aid for the payment of premiums, provided all of them file official reports on whether or not they will conduct fairs through the remainder of the war period.

FEEDER CATTLE SHOW DROP OF 7 PCT. FROM '44

CATTLE on grain feed for market on Pennsylvania farms January 1 totaled 70,000 head, a drop of 5,000 or 7 per cent from the number estimated for the same date in 1944, according to information gathered by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Feeders in Pennsylvania were somewhat unsettled in their view at the time of the survey because of the impending government ceilings on cattle, but high feed costs, labor shortage, and low prices received for beef animals had contributed definitely to a reduction in numbers, the report states.

As of January 1, some feeders indicated that they did not plan to feed their cattle for the usual length of time and would sell the animals at lighter weights. Since then the government ceiling of $18.00 per hundredweight was established to become effective January 29 and continue at that figure until July 2 when it drops to $17.50. Observers believe many feeders will now hold their cattle for the purpose of adding weight and quality.

Of the cattle reported in the survey, 64 per cent had been on feed for less than 3 months, 22 per cent 3 to 5 months, and 14 per cent over 5 months. On January 1st 34 per cent weighed 900 or more pounds and 66 per cent were under that weight.

Intentions of feeders on January 1 were to market 14 per cent of the cattle during January and February; 37 per cent during March and April, and 49 per cent later.

Nationally, the number of cattle on feed for market on January 1, was about 5 per cent larger than a year earlier, 4,173,000 head, compared with the all-time record of 4,445,000 on January 1, 1943.

Vaccination of Mature Cattle as Possible Control for Bang Disease is Explained

BANG disease (Brucellosis) remains one of the major hazards to the cattle industry. It causes financial losses in infected herds by reduced milk production, loss of calves, decreased reproduction efficiency, and constitutes a threat for every herd of Bang disease-free cattle.

The basic knowledge of Bang disease in cattle, though still incomplete, is sufficient foundation on which to build effective measures for its control. To be successful, we must make full use of all proved methods of control. All contribute to a common end—a Bang Disease-Free Herd. Not one single measure has thus far proved entirely satisfactory, according to Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Calfhood vaccination has been generally accepted and is recognized as one of the important preventive measures against Bang disease in cattle, and was made a part of the control program in this Commonwealth March 1, 1941.

Calfhood vaccination, accompanied by a plan providing for periodical blood tests of the herd, elimination (immediate or gradual) of reactors, proper herd management and sanitation, has been responsible for the greatest amount of progress in Bang disease control during the past year; and, if properly directed, it will, no doubt, continue to contribute to progress.

Calfhood vaccination, in its place, can be made a most effective weapon against Bang disease. Unfortunately, some are in the process of seizing an effective but limited weapon and casting aside all others. Some are expecting a single measure to do everything, or to serve as a panacea for our Bang disease troubles.

There are four plans available to cattle owners in this Commonwealth for Bang disease control in their herds, with three plans providing for calfhood vaccination.

Vaccination of Mature Cattle

The success attained with calfhood vaccination has stimulated a demand by cattle owners, especially those who are experiencing heavy losses from Bang disease, for vaccination of mature cattle in such herds. Unfortunately, at this time, there is relatively little reliable information on the vaccination of adult cattle, and calves over eight months of age, with strain 19. While such evidence as is available would indicate that adult vaccination may have a place in the control of Bang disease under certain conditions, more information is needed before widespread use of adult vaccination can be recommended.

In this Commonwealth, adult vaccination is being conducted under Federal-State supervision in 42 Plan "B" herds or those herds in which reactors are retained and eliminated gradually as they become unprofitable.

Where mature cattle are vaccinated, the owner must be prepared to accept certain disadvantages and losses. Some cattle vaccinated as adults remain positive to the blood test over relatively long intervals, and a considerable percentage fail to return to a negative status. Since legal restrictions bar the movement of cattle while they remain positive, the owner must consider this if he resorts to adult vaccination.

Furthermore, since the agglutination test is inadequate in differentiating between infection resulting from the vaccine strain 19 and infection resulting from more virulent strains of Brucella, cattle infected with more virulent strains may be retained in herds where adult vaccination is being practiced and be a source of danger to other animals. Consequently, cattle vaccinated as adults should be permanently identified and managed in the same manner as cattle showing positive reactions to the blood test. Another factor in adult vaccination, especially in dairy cows, is that there is usually an immediate loss of condition and drop in milk production for one to two weeks. The milk from such herds should be carefully pasteurized.

Recommendations concerning adult vaccination, on the basis of existing knowledge, suggest that it should be considered only as an expedient to tide over difficult situations in particular herds, such as "problem herds" in which it has been impossible to control and eliminate Bang disease by the test and slaughter method; in selected herds under Plan "B" (gradual elimination); and in herds where there is rapidly spreading active infection with a high percentage of reactors that are being retained and in which calfhood vaccination is also being practiced.

Vaccinate Only Once

The vaccination of mature cattle should be used only once as a means of elimination of the disease from the herd and not as a permanent program. The use of strain 19 vaccine should be discouraged in Bang disease-free herds, and particularly in herds where an attempt is made to keep the herd free from animals that react positively to the blood serum agglutination test.

The goal of the livestock industry should be more and more Bang disease-free herds, and ultimately the elimination of the disease from the animal population. To accomplish this, the industry must make judicious use of the best methods of control now known; support the orderly process that serves to aid those who are following a definite plan or method of prevention and control that may be best suited to the herd and its environment, giving proper recognition to those who succeed; and support a research program aimed at the development of more effective methods or plans. The intelligent use of strain 19 vaccine should contribute materially to this end.

Under no circumstances, Dr. Bishop cautions, should herd owners themselves attempt to vaccinate calves or mature cattle for Bang disease. Special permits are issued by the Department in accordance with State law.

A GOOD REASON FOR MORE VICTORY GARDENS

ONE reason why Victory gardens should be more extensive this year than last is the fact that commercial vegetable growers harvested 5 per cent fewer acres last year than in 1943 and there is no indication that there will be any increase in 1945. Increasing costs for labor may bring about acreage reductions this year compared with last, observers say.

According to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, the acreage of commercial truck crops harvested for fresh market in Pennsylvania, excluding strawberries, was estimated to be 34,550 acres in 1944, compared with 36,240 in 1943. Acreages of snap beans, beets, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, lettuce and fall spinach were below 1943. The dry season and shortage of help caused some growers to plant less.

In production, the 1944 estimates were higher for spring spinach and sweet corn while all other vegetables were lower than in 1943. Total value for 1944 was $8,607,000, a drop of 18 per cent from the previous year.

The five principal vegetable crops grown for canning and processing last year showed increases in acreage for lima beans, snap beans and tomatoes, and losses for sweet corn and peas, a net gain of 7 per cent. The total acreage was 74,000 with a marketing season production value of $8,012,000 compared with the previous season's 69,200 acres and $8,-143,000 value.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, February 8, 1945 — No. 6

State 10th or Better In Production of 16 Crops for Year 1944

IMPORTANCE of Pennsylvania as an agricultural state, and of the part its farmers are taking in production of food for war, is shown in reports that farmers of the State in 1944 produced enough to win ranking among the ten leading states for 16 crops, and in value the State attained a ranking of tenth or better for 17 crops.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the Nation in the 1944 production of buckwheat and cigar-leaf tobacco, according to a study made by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. It holds first place in value of buckwheat with its 2,940,000-bushel crop and second in value of its cigar-leaf tobacco crop of 50,865,000 pounds.

Other production rankings for 1944 Keystone State crops are:

Fourth in commercial apples, clover-timothy hay, sour cherries, and maple sugar;

Fifth in grapes and maple sirup;

Sixth in potatoes;

Seventh in all tobacco, all cherries, and sweet cherries;

Eighth in timothy seed and pears;

Tenth in peaches and all tame hay.

In other crops Pennsylvania ranks 12th in production of winter wheat, rye, red clover-seed, all hay, and commercial vegetables; 15th in corn, spring wheat, and soybeans for hay; 16th in oats and soybeans for beans; 17th in all wheat; 19th in barley and 23rd in alfalfa.

In addition to first ranking in the value of buckwheat and second in cigar-leaf tobacco, the State ranks 4th in the value of commercial apples, sour cherries, and maple sugar; 5th in potatoes, grapes, and maple sirup; 6th in all tame hay; 7th in all hay, peaches, pears, sweet cherries, and all cherries; 8th in timothy seed; 10th in all tobacco and red clover seed.

Other rankings in crop values are: 11th in commercial vegetables and rye; 12th in winter wheat; 15th in corn, spring wheat, and oats; 16th in all wheat; 17th in barley and soybeans for beans.

HATCHERY OUTLOOK FOR STATE CONSIDERED GOOD

ALTHOUGH 16 per cent fewer baby chicks were hatched in Pennsylvania in 1944 than in 1943, the outlook for the hatchery industry in the State is considered good, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The feed situation has eased, in that larger amounts are available than a year ago. This, together with the recent boosting of the 1945 national egg production goal, is expected to strengthen the demand for both eggs and poultry. Hatcherymen report orders are coming in and the supply of hatching eggs is generally good.

Baby chicks hatched in Pennsylvania in 1944 totaled 65,015,000 compared with 77,271,000 the previous year. The number of eggs set was 94,480,000 or approximately 19 million fewer than in 1943.

The total number of commercially hatched chicks produced in December was 2,428,000, an increase of 55 per cent over the same month in 1943, and 125 per cent more than the 1938-1942 average of 1,080,000. The number of eggs set in December—3,414,000—was 31 per cent more than in December 1943.

12th In Vegetables

PENNSYLVANIA ranked twelfth among the states in production of commercial vegetables during 1944, a recent Federal-State survey discloses. Production totaled approximately 360,000 tons. In the number of acres devoted to such crops the State ranked eleventh with 109,350 and was also eleventh in value, $16,710,000.

Warn of Dangers in 'Blind' Buying of Seeds

Wage Rates Higher

CONTINUED necessity for farmers of Pennsylvania to compete among themselves and with industry for the diminishing labor supply is shown in a Department report which disclosed that all-time record wages are being paid farm workers. As of January 1, farm wage rates in the State were 10 per cent higher than on the same date last year, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Nationally, farm wages on the first of the year were at the highest level for that date in more than 20 years of quarterly records. At the same time the number of farm workers had fallen to its lowest point during that period. Industrial wages, as measured by the index of average weekly earnings, were 424 per cent of the 1910-14 average for October, compared with the October farm wage rate index of 325. Average weekly factory earnings were up only 4 per cent from the previous October, compared with a 16 per cent advance in farm wage rates during that 12-month period.

January 1 wage rates with board in Pennsylvania averaged $59 per month, an advance of 13 per cent to an all-time high; wages per month without board averaged $86.25, the same as in October but 10 per cent above January 1, 1944. The rate of pay for farm workers per day with board was $3.50, a drop of 5 cents from October, but 11 per cent more than a year earlier. Those who worked by the day without board averaged $4.30, compared with $4.35 on October 1, an increase of 6 per cent over the average on January 1, 1944.

As farm employment throughout the country on the first of the year was the lowest of record, there are indications that it also reached the lowest point known in Pennsylvania. As of December 31, 1944, only 5 imported Jamaicans and 94 Newfoundlanders were employed in the State.

PLENTY OF ONIONS BUT CABBAGE STOCKS LOWER

IN CONTRAST to last year's scarcity of onions there appears to be a good supply available this year in Pennsylvania and the country as a whole, according to a Federal-State report. Cabbage stocks are reported slightly lower than a year ago.

Stocks of onions in the hands of growers in Pennsylvania on January 1, were estimated to be 3,000 sacks of 50 pounds each compared with only 600 sacks a year previous. On the same date, onions in the hands of growers and dealers throughout the United States were estimated at nearly 11,000,000 sacks, the largest of record, 26 per cent more than January 1, 1944.

Stocks of Danish type cabbage in Pennsylvania on January 1 were estimated at 450 tons compared with 400 tons a year earlier. Little remains in storage. National holdings totaled less than 23,000 tons, the lightest January 1 storage stocks since estimates were started about 20 years ago, 12 per cent below those on January 1, 1944.

Four Fairs Disband

FOUR Pennsylvania county and community fair associations have notified the Department they have disbanded their organizations and will no longer conduct annual expositions. They are the Greene County Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Carmichaels; the Harvest Home Association, Columbia, Lancaster County; the Bradford County Agricultural Society, Towanda; and the New Castle Agricultural Association, Lawrence County, which conducted its last fair in 1941.

WITH the approach of the grass and clover sowing season farmers of Pennsylvania are naturally concerned with the procuring of their seed supply. This year the supply is none too great and growers may be overly eager in the matter of early procurement. It is with a word of warning that the Bureau of Plant Industry calls attention of prospective purchasers to the need for careful checking of the various sources of supply.

Pennsylvania has a Pure Seed Law which covers the sale of seeds within the Commonwealth. This law is to protect the growers from the purchase of seeds containing noxious weeds or an over-abundance of common weed seeds, Bureau Director Thomas L. Guyton reminds.

The law requires that the clovers and grass shall not have more than three per cent total of all weeds and very slight amounts of such noxious weed seeds as dodder and Canada thistle. The percentage of germination must be given the purchaser, together with the date the test was made. As long as the purchases are made within the State the provisions of the seed law will apply. Unfortunately, the State cannot apply this law to shipments which are brought into the State directly by the one who intends to sow the seed.

Last year the Bureau representatives took samples of some seeds which were shipped into this State direct to farmers from a neighboring state. Seemingly the requirements of the Federal Seed Act were evaded by labelling these shipments "Seeds for Processing."

A farmer in Blair County purchased a mixture of red clover and alsike clover and it was said on the label to be one-half medium red clover and one-half alsike clover. No percentage of germination was given on the tag. The analysis of this sample showed 50.8 per cent red clover, 44.3 per cent alsike clover. The red clover germinated at the rate of 22.5 per cent and the alsike 22 per cent.

Plenty of Weed Seeds

Seeds of the following weeds were present in this sample: green bristlegrass, nightblooming cathfly, buckhorn plantain, evening campion, ragweed, selfheal, lambsquarters, sheep sorrel, ladysthumb, field peppergrass, bitter wintercress and dodder. The dodder was present in seventeen times the amount permitted by Pennsylvania law. This mixture also contained timothy, white clover, sweet clover, black medick and alfalfa.

Another mixture brought from the same place and by the same farmer was said to contain one-half medium red clover and one-half alfalfa. This mixture contained 67 per cent red clover and 30 per cent alfalfa, together with about the same lot of weeds as was found in the first sample.

A Fayette County farmer purchased medium red clover from a neighboring state. This shipment was also marked "For Processing." No analysis was given and the percentage of germination was not stated. Analysis of this sample showed 65.9 per cent of clover seed, nearly 2 per cent inert material and more than 9 per cent of weed seeds. The germination of the clover was 58 per cent. Many of the weeds enumerated in the first example were present. Dodder was present in more than eighty times the lawful tolerance.

Several other such shipments were traced and analyses made. Regardless of the low price which the farmers paid for this seed, they certainly did not receive true value for their investment. Not only did they get seed which was of low germination but they brought to their farms a great number of different weed seeds which will pollute their ground for years to come.

PA 1.7u/u

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, February 15, 1945 | No. 7

Low Potato Stocks Indicate a National Scarcity by Spring

ADDITIONAL proof that a predicted scarcity of potatoes might materialize by spring was provided in a recent Federal-State report on amounts of potatoes on hand and available for sale in the State and Nation as of January 1.

The quantity of Pennsylvania-grown potatoes reported for sale on that date was 6,500,000 bushels, 200,000 more than on the same date a year ago, but 1,300,000 more than the 5,200,000 available for sale on January 1, 1943, the year of critical shortage throughout the Nation.

So far as Pennsylvania production is concerned, observers said, consumers are better off than in either of the past two years. However, the 100,000 Pennsylvania farms that grow potatoes do not produce enough to meet State demands and approximately 6,000,000 bushels must be brought in from other states.

Nationally, there were only 103,530,000 bushels of spuds available for sale on January 1, compared with 134,020,000 a year previous. On the same date in 1943, the year of scarcity, there were only 100,780,000 bushels available throughout the Nation.

The "margin of safety" against another scarcity this year is therefore less than 3 million bushels. Military demands are heavier this year than in 1943.

Observers say that a shortage may be averted provided there is favorable growing weather in the Southern states and substantial stocks of early potatoes become available in time.

Snow-bound country roads have prevented delivery of many stored potatoes from Pennsylvania farms, and these stocks, coming on the market toward spring may help in avoiding a scarcity that could prove to be as serious as that of 1943, observers believe.

Carlot shipments of Pennsylvania potatoes, by rail, through January 20, 1945 were 130 per cent more than a year earlier and the movement of the crop by motortruck was relatively higher.

DEMAND FOR SERVICES CAUSES LABORATORY TO BREAK FORMER RECORDS

DUE to an increased demand by farmers of Pennsylvania for practical and efficient control measures on diseases of livestock and poultry, all previous records of specimens handled by the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry were broken during 1944.

Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau, says a total of 1,410,270 specimens were received, examined and reported, largest since the laboratory was established 49 years ago.

Contributing to the all-time record was a substantial increase in the number of specimens of poultry blood examined for pullorum disease, a total of 743,290. This exceeded the 1943 total by 24,000 and is the largest number of poultry blood tests made by the laboratory since the program was started 20 years ago.

The 1944 record of total specimens examined and reported compares with 1,104,880 handled 5 years previously. During the same period the number of specimens of cattle blood tested increased by more than 200,000 and poultry specimens increased by almost 112,000.

"The laboratory renders essential service in investigation of animal and poultry diseases," Dr. Bishop explained. "It provides diagnoses as an important part of the field duties and functions of the Bureau, and assists practicing veterinarians in the diagnosis, treatment and control of animal and poultry diseases."

He added that while many Pennsylvania veterinarians have entered the armed forces, services to livestock and poultry owners have not been seriously affected.

An Explanation . . . and a Request

THE PURPOSE of this announcement is two-fold: (1) to explain that delays in publication and delivery of the Weekly News Bulletin in recent months have been entirely beyond control of the Department, being due to an increasing manpower shortage in the printing industry; (2) as a paper-saving measure, to ask cooperation of readers in reducing our mailing list to minimum requirements.

Every effort is being made by the printer to overcome unavoidable delays and we hope soon to be able to meet postal regulations by returning to mailings on a regular weekly schedule.

The Weekly News Bulletin is mailed free to those who find it useful in the promotion of Pennsylvania agriculture. Beginning with the issue of May 3, 1945, copies will be mailed only to those readers who make a SPECIFIC REQUEST by mail prior to that date. Names of all who do not make such request will be dropped from the list on April 19. Use a post card, letter, or the convenient form provided below.

MILES HORST, Secretary

Date: 1945

The Hon. Miles Horst, Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Please continue mailing the Weekly News Bulletin to:

Name .....
(Please print or typewrite)

Street & No. or Rural Route .....

Post Office ..... County .....

215

Price Advances Lag Behind Wage Rates

WHILE prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products advanced 4 per cent during 1944, farm wage rates jumped 10 per cent to an all-time high. Since 1910-14, the average prices received by farmers have doubled, but wage rates have trebled.

The index of prices paid by farmers for all goods and services advanced 2 per cent during 1944 to 172 per cent of the 1910-1914 average, according to the regular survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service for the month ended January 15.

A drop of 3.6 cents per dozen in the price received by farmers for eggs during the month was largely responsible for a decline of 1 point in the index of livestock and livestock products. Average prices received for crops advanced, however, leaving a net gain of 1 point for all farm products. This brought the index to 212 compared with 211 for December 15 and 204 a year earlier, based on the 1910-14 average as 100.

Wheat moved up 2 cents a bushel to $1.56 during the month. Potatoes advanced 5 cents to an average of $1.80 per bushel, apples 15 cents to $2.30 per bushel, and hay $1.10 to $20.50 per ton.

Meat animals and live chickens advanced, but the price received for turkeys dropped nearly a cent a pound. Other commodities in the index showed no change.

On account of the 1-point advance in prices farmers pay, purchasing power of the farmer's dollar remained at the December 15 figure of $1.23, based on the 1910-14 dollar being worth 100 cents. Price comparisons as of January 15 follow:

	Jan. 15 1944	Dec. 15 1944	Jan. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.64	$ 1.54	$ 1.56
Corn, Bu.	1.41	1.33	1.33
Oats, Bu.	.92	.78	.78
Barley, Bu.	1.28	1.18	1.18
Rye, Bu.	1.22	1.21	1.21
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.36	1.03	1.03
Soybeans, Bu	1.80	2.00	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	1.75	1.75	1.80
Hay, loose Ton	17.70	19.40	20.50
Apples, Bu.	2.75	2.15	2.30
Hogs, Cwt.	13.10	14.20	14.40
Beef Cattle, Cwt	11.70	12.70	13.20
Veal Calves, Cwt.	14.80	15.50	15.90
Sheep, Cwt.	5.40	4.65	5.20
Lambs, Cwt.	13.50	12.80	13.50
Milk cows, Head	150.00	147.00	147.00
Horses, Head	131.00	108.00	107.00
Mules, Head	136.00	124.00	122.00
Chickens, Lb.	.273	.280	.283
Turkeys, Lb.	.405	.428	.420
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.70	3.70	3.70
Milk, retail Qt.	.143	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.49	.490
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.49	.490
Eggs, Doz.	.373	.516	.480
Wool, Lb.	.42	.43	.43

State Aid to Rural Schools Justified

STATE financial aid to rural schools is a "completely justified" expenditure in view of the service such schools render by educating close to half of their youth who later take jobs in the cities, Secretary Horst recently told members of the Rural Institute held in Reading by the Board of Home Missions of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

For much the same reason, all religious denominations should "nurture and promote" existing rural church organizations because a great percentage of migrating rural youth "will continue in active church work and attendance when they settle in town or city," he added. He spoke on "Vocational Guidance in Rural Areas."

"For years the farm population exceeded urban population, but since World War I it has been reversed," he said. "Before this war there were more young people in rural areas than our agriculture could support with life-time jobs. After the war they will keep moving to the cities. Rural schools will keep on educating those youth who later will make a substantial contribution to urban business and industry.

"All society benefits through any improvement that comes to rural education. Those best fitted for agriculture should be selected, encouraged and trained for farming."

Secretary Horst, for six years a member of the State Council of Education, said improved practices, increased production per worker on farms, and a tendency toward more intensive farming on smaller acreages after the war will provide opportunities in agriculture for at least as great a percentage of farm youth as before the war.

Practical Training Stressed

Post-war agricultural education should center on making farm living more attractive and satisfying in its material as well as social aspects, the Secretary had previously told a Farmers' Week meeting of the New Jersey State County Agents' Ass'n.

"The time has come when the farmer must look beyond his barnyard gate and cooperate in advancement of the welfare of all the people of his community," he declared. "The vocational agriculture teachers and county agents are important factors in the educational services that accompany any advancements in rural life and living."

The speaker stressed need for practical training for returning servicemen who want to farm; more guidance for rural youth; instruction in farm finance, soil conservation, nutrition and health, better housing, family living, civic, cultural and religious activities.

Pa 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, February 22, 1945 | No. 8

90,000 More Cattle Tested Last Year In Bang Control

NEARLY 6,000 more herds and 90,000 more cattle were tested for Bang disease in Pennsylvania during 1944 than in the previous year, according to Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Reports were received on 50,556 herds totaling 645,475 cattle.

While the percentage of herds found to be infected with the disease increased slightly in 1944, the percentage of cattle infected remained about the same, showing only one-tenth of 1 per cent more than the previous year.

Cattle indemnities paid to farmers by the State, in the process of Bang disease control work, amounted to approximately $545,000 in 1944, exceeding the previous year's payments by more than $80,000. Federal indemnities last year totaled nearly $440,000, showing an increase for the year in approximately the same amount as provided by the State.

More than 69,000 herds comprising 694,000 cattle were under Federal-State supervision for Bang disease control during 1944. Of this number more than 55,000 herds of nearly one-half million cattle were under supervision in the area plan in 541 townships of 38 counties. The cattle in 21 counties have been tested under the individual or area plans, with 19 counties now being classified as Modified Accredited Bang Disease-Free.

A total of 238 herds of 1,782 milking goats were under supervision for Bang disease control during the year.

STATE REGAINS FIRST RANKING IN BUCKWHEAT

IN achieving first place among all the states in the production and value of buckwheat in 1944, Pennsylvania farmers won back the honors lost in 1942 to New York, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The come-back was due to an increase in yield per acre and in the number of acres harvested, the records show. In 1941, the last year that Pennsylvania held first place in total production, the yield averaged 20 bushels per acre. In 1942 the yield dropped to 19.5 bushels per acre and in 1943 it averaged 19 bushels. In both years New York State was first in the Nation in production of buckwheat.

First rank among the 20 states producing buckwheat in 1944 was attained with a total of 2,940,000 bushels compared with 2,508,000 in 1943. The State ranked second in the number of buckwheat acres—147,000 or 15,000 more than the year before—and was third in the average yield per acre.

Pennsylvania production of all grains, except barley, was higher in 1944 than in 1943, providing farmers with extra amounts of all feed grains for livestock and poultry. These are proving to be most welcome, in view of the critical shortage of feeds during the 1943-44 feeding season.

Buckwheat last year gave farmers an average return of $23.00 per acre compared with $24.70 in 1943.

"FIRST" COUNTIES LISTED

THE "first" or highest farm crop producing counties in Pennsylvania for 1943, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, have been listed as follows:

Lancaster County led in the production of corn, winter wheat, barley, tobacco and pears. Berks in 1943 produces more oats than any other county. Top production of rye and peaches was credited to Franklin County and Bradford led in hay and buckwheat. Lehigh led in potatoes, Adams in apples and cherries and Erie was first in grapes.

"BUY BY BUSHEL"

HOUSEWIVES striving to balance budgets and diets of family members will do well to buy Pennsylvania apples now, and to "buy by bushel" amounts, Secretary Horst advised recently.

Blocked roads and freight embargoes combined to prevent some Pennsylvania apple growers from getting their product to markets since the holidays, he explained. Recently improved conditions already are bringing more apples to retailers, and supplies should be plentiful in coming weeks, over and above all requirements of the Armed Forces, he added.

"Pennsylvania apples have an international reputation for their distinctive flavor," he declared. "They rate high for quality among the big buyers on that account. The 1944 crop is no exception. Drought conditions last summer seemed to increase the flavor."

Consumers can save money if they adopt the "buy by bushel" plan and have a safe place for storage, he continued, explaining that temperatures from 34 to 40 degrees are best.

A cool spot in the cellar, an unheated bedroom, attic or enclosed porch usually is satisfactory for safe keeping of apples. If the temperature in such storage places should fall below 32 degrees a rug or blanket should be wrapped around the container.

BEE DISEASE CONTROL

FARMERS who have honey bees are cautioned by the Bureau of Plant Industry to prevent the spread of bee diseases during their spring check-up on hives.

State bee inspectors say beekeepers should make a careful check of all colonies on the first day that weather becomes warm enough for the bees to make a cleaning flight. Bees should not be disturbed in the hives too early in the season, they say. If it is found on examination of the entrance to the hive that no bees are flying, the entrance should be closed and kept closed until more careful examination may be made later.

If it is found that the colony died of disease, all frames and bees should be burned at once so that flying bees will not have a chance to rob the hive of its honey and thereby spread the disease. During the latter part of March the interior of hives should be examined for the presence of any brood disease.

Inspectors also urge beekeepers to order new equipment now and have it assembled and painted in readiness for the coming season. Now is a good time to make needed repairs, they add.

Insecticides for Victory gardens will be available in about the same quantities as last year except for nicotine, which will be harder to get.

Beeswax Production Advanced in '44 as Honey Crop Dropped

WHILE Pennsylvania bees fell down slightly in gathering honey during the 1944 season due to drought conditions, they more than did their bit for the war effort by increasing the State's output of beeswax, so greatly needed in the manufacture of munitions and other war supplies.

Beekeepers of the State last year had 191,000 colonies of bees, 7,000 or 4 per cent more than the previous year, according to the annual honey and beeswax production survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

But the late, wet spring and hot, dry summer reduced nectar flow to such extent that the larger number of bees actually gathered 144,000 pounds less honey than in 1943. Total production was 6,112,000 pounds or 3,056 tons, compared with 6,256,000 pounds the year before, a drop of 2 per cent.

Beeswax totaled seventy and one-half tons, or 141,000 pounds, compared with 138,000 pounds in 1943, a gain of 2 per cent.

Average production of honey was 32 pounds per hive, 9 per cent less than in 1943. Honey left in hives last fall as winter food for the bees was only 42 pounds per colony, whereas in the winter of 1943-44 beekeepers left an average of 46 pounds.

Prices to Pennsylvania producers for the 1944 honey crop averaged: at wholesale, comb honey 22 cents per pound, extracted 17 cents; at retail, comb 26 cents, extracted 23 cents. All sales of beeswax averaged 42 cents per pound.

Nationally, honey production last year was about the same as in 1943 but beeswax production was close to 4 million pounds, 5 per cent above 1943 and 17 per cent above the quantity produced in 1942.

MORE GRAINS ON HAND

STOCKS of grain in off-farm storage positions in Pennsylvania, exclusive of holdings in terminal markets and Commodity Credit Corporation bins, as of January 1 showed more corn and rye but less oats and barley than a year earlier, according to a Federal-State report.

Shelled and ear corn holdings amounted to 590,000 bushels compared with 450,000 a year earlier; oats totaled 545,000 bushels compared with 710,000; barley amounted to 112,000 bushels, or 213,000 less than a year earlier; rye totaled 43,000 bushels, or 23,000 more than on the same date in 1944.

Wheat stored in Pennsylvania interior mills, elevators and warehouses, which does not include stocks in terminal storages and merchant mills, on January 1 totaled 726,000 bushels compared with 700,000 a year earlier and the 1935-43 average of 991,000 bushels.

Acre Values Of 1944 Crops Are Listed

TOBACCO and potatoes in 1944 led all other Pennsylvania farm crops in the average money value returned to the farmer for his labor, interest on investment, his seed and fertilizers, according to records compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. These are the crops that cost most to raise, Department officials pointed out.

Prices received by farmers provide estimates showing that tobacco averaged $279.47 in value per acre. Potatoes ranked second, with an average value of $208.80 per acre.

Next in order of average value per acre was corn at $56.24; barley fourth, $35.28; wheat fifth, $32.97; hay sixth, $28.53; oats seventh, $24.51; buckwheat eighth, $23.00; and rye ninth, $18.76. All acre values were higher in 1944 than in 1943 except buckwheat, which dropped $1.70 per acre in estimated value.

Corn ranked first in total estimated value, the Pennsylvania crop being worth $79,298,000. Approximate total values for other crops are: tame hay, $63,680,000; potatoes, $34,450,000; all wheat, $30,430,000; oats, $20,565,000; applies, $19,420,000; truck crops, $16,710,000; tobacco, $9,475,000; peaches, $5,660,000 and buckwheat, $3,380,000.

Victory gardeners will do well to order supplies early. There may be bottlenecks in deliveries of seed, fertilizers and insecticides. The fertilizer situation is said to be not as good as last year.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, March 1, 1945 — No. 9

Record Year Ahead for Turkey Growers

PENNSYLVANIA turkey growers and farmers are planning their biggest production program in history for 1945, aiming toward more than a million and half birds, the Department of Agriculture announced recently following a state-wide survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Last year turkey production in Pennsylvania reached a record high of 1,285,000 birds. On January 1 growers indicated intentions to raise 1,542,000 turkeys this year, a total of 257,000 or 20 per cent more than in 1944.

The number of breeder hens on hand January 1 was 80,000 which is 13,000 more than on the same date a year earlier.

Hatcherymen of the State report a "very good" demand for turkey poults so far this season and some say they may have difficulty filling orders due to limited capacity and labor.

Turkey production in the United States for 1945 is expected to total close to 39,500,000 or 8 per cent more than last year. The average live weight per turkey sold in 1944 was 17.2 pounds, a pound heavier than in 1943.

T. B. Testing for Cattle Stepped Up

FEWER than three in each 500 dairy cattle tested for tuberculosis in Pennsylvania during 1944 were found to be reactors as the Bureau of Animal Industry carried its disease control program through a third wartime year.

Dr. Charles P. Bishop, Bureau Director, reports activities in tuberculosis testing of cattle were actually stepped up last year to the point where the total number of cattle tested and retested exceeded those of 1943 by more than 30,000 and the number of herds tested was approximately 1,800 above the previous year's total. More than 35,000 herds of over 470,000 cattle were reported tested, with 2,762 reactors, as efforts were continued to maintain a wholesome milk supply in this State.

Out of nearly 1,500 milk goats in 169 herds that were tested for tuberculosis in 1944 there was but one reactor.

Of the cattle now under supervision, more than 6,200 herds comprising 152,000 animals are classified as accredited.

Dr. Bishop reported more than a thousand premises were disinfected during the year, an increase of more than 600 over the previous year.

State indemnities in 1944 totaled approximately $90,500, and federal payments slightly exceeded $65,200.

SNOW PROVES HANDICAP TO SPRING ACTIVITIES

PREPARATIONS for spring activities on Pennsylvania farms "suffered substantially" because of the January record snowfalls which caused much hardship and distress in country districts, according to the general Pennsylvania crop report as of February 1, prepared by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

As a result of severe weather and blocked roads farmers were handicapped in making deliveries and obtaining supplies for farm operations. Most activities were confined to chores and digging out of the snow.

This delay may find many farmers who are faced with a shortage of farm help unable to carry out even greatly curtailed plans for planting, fertilizing, repairs and other necessary work for the coming 1945 crop season, the report declares.

Winter grains and new grass seedings have had excellent snow coverage over ground which was not frozen.

January temperatures were almost constantly below normal and averaged nearly 10 degrees less than usual for that time of year. The average for the last week in the month was but 17 degrees compared with a normal of 27 degrees.

A truck crop report said a few crops in trench storage were frozen rather heavily in the Bucks-Philadelphia area. Blocked roads held up deliveries to market.

Heavy Feeding Aids Boost in Milk Output

IN SPITE of extremely cold weather milk production in Pennsylvania for January was 3 per cent above December, and 8 per cent ahead of the same month last year.

January production totaled 396 million pounds, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. This production was accompanied by increased consumption of roughage and grain feeds caused by cold weather. Roughage, especially good hay, is getting scarce in some sections. Snow-blocked roads hampered the bringing in of feed and the delivery of milk.

Where feed is scarce herds are being reduced by culling out the low-producing cows. Stock generally is wintering well but some farmers report "quite a few sick cows."

The February 1 rate of grain fed per cow was reported to be 7.4 pounds compared with 7.0 pounds a year previous, and the 10-year average of 6.2 pounds, 1934-1943. This was the highest February grain feeding rate known in Pennsylvania since records were started in 1933.

Milk production per cow in January was 16.2 pounds compared with 16.0 pounds on February 1, 1944 and the 10-year average of 15.8 pounds.

HIGH IN MAPLE PRODUCTS

AMONG the ten states producing maple sirup and maple sugar in 1944, Pennsylvania ranked fourth in the production and value of sugar and fifth in the production and value of sirup, according to Federal-State surveys.

In 1943 the State ranked third in production of maple sugar, turning out 27,000 pounds. Although this amount was exceeded by 1,000 pound in 1944, the State dropped to fourth place in production. In each year, however, the State held fourth place in value. the 1943 crop being worth $12,000, and that for 1944 was valued at $13,000.

Maple sirup produced in Pennsylvania last year totaled 133,000 gallons worth $426,000 compared with 95,000 gallons produced in the previous year worth $271,000. The State held fifth rank in both production and value in both years.

Egg Production Starts to Decline After Three Years

AFTER 39 consecutive months in which Pennsylvania farm flocks produced more eggs than for the same month of the previous year, egg production has started a decline, the Department reported on completion of a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Establishment of new all-time monthly egg production records over a period of more than three years ended in January when production of 222 million eggs was 15 million or 6 per cent under that for January of last year.

While the average number of eggs per layer this January (12.15) was practically the same as last year (12.21) the number of layers (18,295,000) was 6 per cent below January 1944, or a reduction of over a million.

However, January 1945 production of eggs exceeded the December output of 210 million by 6 per cent, the report points out. This seasonal increase was achieved despite cold weather during the month and the decrease in the number of layers.

The drop in number of layers from December to January was somewhat greater than the usual seasonal decline during any of the recent years. Observers say this is due largely to increased demand for poultry meat and a national effort to reduce egg production in 1945 to avoid oversupplies such as were experienced last spring and early summer.

Reported prices of feed advanced a few cents after declining slightly during the past few months. The egg-feed ration—85 eggs equal to the cost of 100 pounds of feed in January—was more favorable than a year ago, but 10 per cent less favorable than for December.

National egg production for January was 8 per cent below the record January production of last year.

LIVING MEMORIALS

SECRETARY HORST, in an address before the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, suggested that cities, towns and civic groups desiring to erect monuments to World War II veterans, consider "living memorials" such as parks, recreation spots, rose gardens, laurel or dogwood plantations.

He cited the international reputation of the flowering dogwoods of Valley Forge Park, and said such memorials would be lasting, be seen, used and enjoyed by thousands of people each year. Picnic, camping, and public recreation parks in urban, rural and forest areas would make ideal memorials, he declared.

STOCKS of hay on Pennsylvania farms as of January 1, while less than a year earlier, compare favorably with average stocks held at the same date in recent years. January 1 hay holdings on Pennsylvania farms this year totaled 2,069,000 tons compared with 2,222,000 in 1944, 2,245,000 in 1943 and 1,890,000 in 1942. In 1938 farm hay holdings totaled 2,275,000 tons.

Write . . . If You Want News Bulletin

The Weekly News Bulletin is mailed free to those who find it useful in the promotion of Pennsylvania agriculture. Beginning with the issue of May 3, 1945, copies will be mailed only to present readers who make a SPECIFIC REQUEST by mail prior to that date. Names of all who do not make such request will be dropped from the list on May 3, Use a post card, letter, or the convenient form provided below.

MILES HORST, Secretary.

Date:.....1945

The Hon. Miles Horst, Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Please continue mailing the Weekly News Bulletin to:

Name .....
(Please print or typewrite)

Street & No. or Rural Route .....

Post Office ..... *County* .....

215

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, March 8, 1945 — No. 10

Launch Campaign To Control Spread Of Rabies by Dogs

IN its efforts to control a further spread of rabies, which reached record proportions in the past two years, the Department has launched a state-wide campaign to obtain the cooperation of dog owners and to reduce the number of stray and uncontrolled dogs found running at large.

According to Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, 902 positive cases of rabies were reported during 1944 compared with 826 reported in 1943, the two highest years in State records.

Last year the spread of rabies reached its peak in the months of March with 123 cases, April 112, and May with 123. The heaviest area of infestation was in Western Pennsylvania. More than one-third of the cases were reported from Allegheny County. Scores of cities, boroughs and townships in western counties placed and enforced dog quarantines during the first half of 1944.

While state-wide conditions to March 1 appeared to show slight improvement over last, Dr. Bishop emphasized that rabies is not a strictly summer disease and cautioned all dog owners to obtain licenses and to keep their dogs under control at all times. House-to-house checks-ups by dog agents have been under way in various parts of the State since March first.

"Any spread of rabies is due to the ownerless stray and to the owner who permits his dog to run at large," he said. "Dog agents and local police officers have been instructed to kill on sight any unlicensed dog running loose. All County Treasurers have had licenses on hand since late January and there is no excuse for owners not having license tags attached to the collars of their dogs. Tags may be obtained also through some local aldermen, justices of the peace or notaries public. All dogs over six months of age must have a tag attached to a collar kept on the dog at all times.

"The placing of a license tag on a dog will not stop it from doing damage. Neither will tagging a dog exempt the owner from prosecution if the dog is not properly controlled. Anyone bitten by a rabid or suspected dog should see his physician at once."

Dr. Bishop urged dog owners to cooperate with local police officers, constables and other agencies in enforcement of the State dog law. He said that by observing regulations and quarantines of municipalities and communities the uncontrolled dog can be eliminated—a step that is necessary in the prevention and control of rabies, protection of human health and prevention of damage to animals, livestock and poultry.

MORE APPLES STORED

MORE than twice as many apples were being held in storage in Pennsylvania on February 1 compared with a year earlier, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service announces.

A total of 1,581,000 bushels of apples were in storage on the first of February this year compared with only 608,000 bushels held on the same date in 1944. There were 20,000 bushels of pears compared with only 3,000 bushels a year earlier.

February 1 holdings of fluid cream totaled 300,000 pounds; creamery butter 4,264,000 pounds; American cheese 3,618,000 pounds; shell eggs 25,000 pounds; frozen eggs 5,397,000 pounds; and poultry 8,117,000 pounds as of February 1.

On the same date 69 per cent of cooler space in Pennsylvania cold storage warehouses was being used compared with 67 per cent a year earlier. Freezer space occupied was 84 per cent compared with 91 per cent on February 1, 1944.

TAKES HUMAN TOLL

ONLY three humans died from the effects of rabies between January 1 and November 30, although more than 1,400 persons and nearly 3,000 animals were bitten or exposed to being bitten by dogs, cats or other animals infected or supposedly infected with rabies during 1944 in Pennsylvania, according to preliminary reports on the worst year for rabies ever recorded in the State.

"Prompt action by physicians, veterinarians, and local police officers in advising or providing Pasteur treatment in suspected cases of rabies certainly prevented a greater number of human deaths," said Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, where State Dog Law enforcement centers.

Provisional figures of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, show that three humans died from rabies in the first 11 months of 1944. This compares with two in 1942 and four in 1943. There is no record of the number of persons given Pasteur treatment.

CHICK OUTLOOK BETTER; MANY HATCHERIES BOOK LARGE BROILER ORDERS

HEAVY snows and cold weather not only handicapped operations of Pennsylvania commercial chick hatcheries during January, but also delayed placement of orders by farmers for early delivery, according to a Federal-State survey.

Farmers hesitated in placing orders due to cold weather increasing risks in brooding. Most of the orders received during the month were for pullets, but some hatcheries report a heavy demand for broilers and say that their full capacity is already booked for deliveries up to July 1. The demand for turkey poults is very good, E. L. Gasteiger, agricultural statistician, reports.

"Demand for chicks from Pennsylvania hatcheries at present is rated good, but not so good as conditions warrant," he said. "However, the outlook is better this season than last, though somewhat below the record production of 1943. Some operators have delayed opening later than they had previously indicated."

The report shows that during January 4,500,000 baby chicks were produced by Pennsylvania commercial hatcheries. This compares with 4,045,000 in January 1944, and with the average of 1,582,000 for the 5-year period, 1939 to 1943.

Total 1944 commercial chick production in Pennsylvania was 16 per cent below 1943. The principal factor in the recently improved outlook is that the feed situation has improved and government requirements and programs are expected to strengthen the demand for both eggs and poultry. The supply of hatching eggs now is generally good.

Nationally there was a 5 per cent increase in the number of baby chicks produced by commercial hatcheries during January compared with the output for the same month in 1944. A strong demand exists for chicks for commercial broiler production. The demand for chicks for general farm flock replacement, however, remains unsettled.

STATE FARMERS REGAIN FORMER POTATO RANKING

PENNSYLVANIA farmers in 1944 regained for the State its prominence as a potato producing area when the crop of more than 19 million bushels was sufficient to rank the Commonwealth 6th among all the states in total production. This was an advance from 8th place held in 1943, according to records of Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The best Pennsylvania ranking for potatoes held in recent years was 5th place in 1941, when the State also stood 5th in acreage and 4th in value of the crop. The next year the State still ranked 5th in acreage but dropped to 7th in production and 5th in value.

Drought, shortage of labor and machinery in 1943 brought the standing to its lowest wartime point, 7th in acreage, 8th in production and 5th in value. Return in 1944 to 6th in production was accompanied by 6th place in acreage and 5th in value.

Average yield per acre had much to do with the changes in Keystone State potato production ranking during these war years, the report shows. In 1941 Pennsylvania ranked 17th in the Nation with 130 bushels per acre. The next year it was 24th with an average of 112 bushels but in 1943 advanced to 23rd with 106 bushels. Last year the average yield was 116 bushels per acre and the State advanced to 20th place. In each of the past two years a late, wet spring retarded planting, and summer droughts reduced opportunity for better yields.

In 1938 and 1939 potatoes held third place in total estimated value of all Pennsylvania farm crops, topped only by corn and tame hay. In 1940 potatoes yielded third place to wheat by a margin of $1,278,000 but returned to 3rd in 1942. Last year's spud crop was valued at $34,452,000.

Lower Prices for Livestock Products Cause Index Drop

WHILE prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for meat animals during the month ended February 15 reflected increases from 20 to 70 cents per hundredweight, and crop prices showed an upward trend, the gains were more than offset by decreases in livestock products, resulting in a drop of 1 point in the index of prices received for all farm products, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Using average prices received from 1909 to 1914 as a base of 100, the index on February 15 was 211 compared with 212 a month earlier. Crops advanced 10 points to 223 but lower prices for butter, eggs and wholesale milk brought a decline of 3 points in the index for livestock and livestock products.

Most grains advanced, as did hay. Potatoes went up 15 cents a bushel and apples 5 cents. The average wholesale price received for milk dropped 5 cents per hundredweight to $3.65, according to the Federal-State survey. Farmers received an average of 5 cents per dozen less for eggs than a month previous.

There was no change in the index of prices that farmers must pay for goods and services. Because of this there was no change in the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar which remained at the January 15 figure of $1.23.

Some prices received by farmers during the period include: potatoes $1.95 per bushel; apples $2.35 per bushel; chickens 29.1 cents and turkeys 42 cents per pound live weight; butter 48 cents per pound, and eggs 43 cents per dozen. Price comparisons follow:

	Feb. 15 1944	Jan. 15 1945	Feb. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.64	$ 1.56	$ 1.58
Corn, Bu.	1.41	1.33	1.34
Oats, Bu.	.92	.78	.83
Barley, Bu.	1.26	1.18	1.18
Rye, Bu.	1.27	1.21	1.23
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.35	1.03	1.05
Soybeans, Bu.	1.85	2.00	2.00
Potatoes, Bu.	1.75	1.80	1.95
Hay, loose, Ton	17.90	20.50	21.60
Apples, Bu.	3.00	2.30	2.35
Hogs, Cwt.	13.30	14.40	14.60
Beef cattle, Cwt.	12.30	13.20	13.90
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.90	15.90	16.20
Sheep, Cwt.	5.80	5.20	5.90
Lambs, Cwt.	13.90	13.50	14.00
Milk cows, Head	150.00	147.00	151.00
Horses, Head	137.00	107.00	115.00
Mules, Head	145.00	122.00	124.00
Chickens, Lb.	.269	.283	.291
Turkeys, Lb.	.395	.420	.420
Milk, wholesale, Cwt.	3.65	3.70	3.65
Milk, retail, Qt.	.143	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.490	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.490	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.329	.480	.43
Wool, Lb.	.40	.43	.43

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, March 15, 1945 — No. 11

Most Livestock Species Show Marked Drop in Numbers and Values for Year

WHILE Pennsylvania farms had more cattle, milk cows and turkeys on January 1 of this year than last, all other groups of livestock and poultry showed a marked decline in both numbers and value, the Department announces in the annual January 1 Pennsylvania livestock survey prepared by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The aggregate farm inventory value of the five livestock species—horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs totaling $212,507,000—decreased three per cent in the year.

The value of all livestock, chickens and turkeys was $248,054,000 January 1, 1945 compared with $255,406,000 a year previous.

The number of horses and mules, which has been falling off each year for more than 25 years, declined still further in 1944, the report states. Horses dropped 12,000 to 220,000 while the 31,000 mules reported on farms as of January 1 totaled 5,000 fewer than a year earlier. The number of horses was down 5 per cent, mules down 14 per cent. Sheep were down 14 per cent, hogs down 22 per cent, chickens decreased 7 per cent; but turkeys increased 15 per cent during the year.

Observers are of the opinion that numbers of cattle on Pennsylvania farms are approaching a peak. They point to a decline of 3 per cent in the number of heifer calves in the past year.

Milk Cows Increase

The number of cattle and calves on January 1, totaling 1,623,000, was 1 per cent greater than a year previous, and the highest since 1900. All classes of cattle, except steers and calves, participated in the increase. Cows and heifers 2 years old and over kept for milk, increased 3 per cent, and heifers 1 to 2 years old showed an increase of 4 per cent. All milk cows on January 1 totaled 952,000 compared with 924,000 a year earlier. Their value this year was over $3,000,000 greater than last.

The average number of cows milked in Pennsylvania during 1944 was 930,000 or slightly more than 2 per cent above the average of 909,000 milked during the previous year. Average production per cow was 5,350 pounds for both years, the report states. Total milk produced during 1944 was 4,976,000,000 pounds or 2 per cent higher than the 1943 production.

Egg Record—Fewer Chickens

An all-time record production of nearly three billion eggs was achieved in 1944 by Pennsylvania laying flocks. The total of 2,800,000,000 eggs was a 7 per cent increase over the previous year and 19 per cent more than were produced in 1942.

The record was achieved in spite of a decline of 7 per cent in the number of chickens reported on Pennsylvania farms from January 1, 1944 to January 1, 1945. The total reported on the latter date was 23,216,000. In the same period there was an increase of 15 per cent in the number of turkeys on farms, a jump from 187,000 to 215,000.

Indication of a possible recovery in chicken numbers in 1945 is seen in an increase of 13 per cent in the number of baby chicks that farmers say they intend to buy, compared with the number purchased in 1944, according to a survey made February 1. It is pointed out, however, that some differences may be expected between intentions and actual purchases, depending upon egg prices during the hatching season and the relation of egg and chicken prices received by the farmer and what he must pay for feed.

As for turkeys, Pennsylvania farmers are looking forward to the biggest year in history. They report intentions to raise more than a million and a half birds, or 20 per cent more than in 1944.

Hogs Drop 22 Pct.

A decline of 22 per cent took place during the year 1944 in the number of hogs on Pennsylvania farms.

Further declines in 1945 are anticipated because farmers have indicated the number of sows to farrow this spring will be 25 per cent less than the number farrowed last spring.

In the 22 per cent drop between January 1, 1944 and January 1, 1945, there was a decrease of 32 per cent in the number of hogs under 6 months of age and a decrease of 27 per cent in sows and gilts, but an increase of 7 per cent in the number of hogs 6 months old and over. The combined 1944 spring and fall pig crop was 22 per cent less than the 1943 crop.

Hog numbers on January 1 of this year totaled 754,000, compared with the record high in recent years of 967,000 reported a year previous. However, this year's total was 55,000 more than the average for the 10 years, 1934 to 1943.

The January 1 farm value per head for hogs averaged $16.70 compared with $14.20 a year earlier. In total value there was a drop of approximately $1,175,000 due to the reduced numbers. Hogs on Pennsylvania farms on January 1 were valued at $12,573,000.

Fewer Sheep

The number of sheep declined 14 per cent during the year. All classes except wethers, which increased 6,000 head during the year to 40,000, shared in the decrease. On January 1 there were 315,000 sheep on Pennsylvania farms compared with 366,000 on the same date in 1944, a total of 377,000 in 1943, and the 10-year average (1934-1943) of 413,000.

FEWER POTATOES SAVED THIS YEAR FOR SEED

OUT of the 19 million bushels of potatoes grown on slightly more than 100,000 Pennsylvania farms last year farmers saved approximately 1,360,000 bushels for use as seed in planting their 1945 crop, according to records of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. This total is 384,000 less than the amount saved for seed from the 1943 crop on the farms where potatoes were grown.

Observers say this situation may indicate that farmers plan to plant fewer acres in potatoes this year than were planted in 1944. Increasing shortage of labor and machinery may influence any planned reduction in potato acreage this year in Pennsylvania it is believed.

The present supply of certified seed grown last year in Pennsylvania is said to be adequate, the Bureau of Plant Industry reports. Potter County growers have been unable to send their seed stocks to market as early as in other years due to snow-blocked roads.

With about 300,000 bushels, Pennsylvania ranked 12th in the production of certified seed potatoes among the 26 states that produced such seed in 1944.

Dogs Lead Variety Of Animals Found Spreading Rabies

DOGS are the most common spreaders of rabies in Pennsylvania, but owners are warned by the Department that cats, cattle, swine, sheep and horses may contract and spread the disease.

According to records of the Bureau of Animal Industry, even a wild fox and a captive zebu, a type of cattle common in India, were included in the record total of 902 animals known to have had rabies during the year 1944.

Bureau laboratory examinations were conducted on the heads of six foxes suspected of having rabies, but only one proved to be positive. Rabies tests were conducted also on three rabbits, three rats, a woodchuck and a muskrat, but all showed negative reactions.

Dogs predominated among rabies fatalities, a total of 792 reported as having died with the disease last year. Cattle came second in the number of positive cases of rabies reported, a total of 51 for the year. There were 26 cases of rabies found in sheep, 28 cats, 3 swine, 1 fox and 1 zebu.

Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau says that with the coming of spring an increase in the number of cases of rabies may be expected throughout Pennsylvania. He cautions all dog owners to have their animals licensed and to keep them under control at all times. Under the State Dog Law local police officers may kill unlicensed, stray or unaccompanied dogs found running at large. More than 23,000 such dogs were killed by these officers and the Bureau's dog agents last year.

Sugar maple sap started running in Somerset County the first of March. Some spring plowing started about the same time in favored locations in southeastern counties.

Pennsylvania last year ranked 19th among the states in the production of barley, with 2,632,000 bushels. The crop was worth $3,316,000, ranking the State 17th in value. The average yield of 28 bushels per acre was 12th highest among the 42 barley-growing states. In acreage, the State was 19th, with a total of 94,000 acres. Farmers have indicated intentions to plant 98,000 acres to barley in 1945.

Write . . . If You Want Bulletin

The Weekly News Bulletin is mailed free to those who find it useful in the promotion of Pennsylvania agriculture. Beginning with the issue of May 3, 1945, copies will be mailed only to present readers who make a SPECIFIC REQUEST by mail prior to that date. Names of all who do not make such request will be dropped from the list on May 3, Use a post card, letter, or the convenient form provided below.

MILES HORST, Secretary.

Date:.....1945

The Hon. Miles Horst, Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Please continue mailihg the Weekly News Bulletin to:

Name .....
(Please print or typewrite)

Street & No. or Rural Route .....

Post Office ..... *County* .....

315

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, March 22, 1945 | No. 12

Heavily Infested Japanese Beetle Area Enlarged by Addition of 41 Townships

LARGEST addition to the heavily infested Japanese beetle quarantine area that has taken place in the past five years in Pennsylvania was announced recently in a quarantine regulation amendment issued by Secretary Horst.

Forty-one townships in the counties of Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh and York are added to the heavily infested area, effective April 1. The amendment was made necessary because of the increase of Jap beetles in the townships listed.

State and Federal restrictions on the movement of cut flowers, fruits and vegetables from the heavily infested area are put into effect during the season of the flight of the adult beetle, usually from mid-June until October. They apply to cut flowers moved in bulk direct from the field or greenhouse where grown, and to fruits and vegetables moved by refrigerator car or motor truck. Such movements during the restricted period are permitted only on certificates issued by State or Federal inspectors.

The official amendment adds the following townships to the heavily infested area:

Berks County—Albany, Center, Greenwich, Jefferson, Marion, North Heidelberg, Penn, Perry, Tilden, Tulpenhocken, and Windsor.

Cumberland County—East Pennsboro, Hampden, Middlesex, Monroe, Silver Spring and South Middleton.

Dauphin County—Conewago and Derry.

Lebanon County—Cornwall, Heidelberg, Jackson, Millcreek, North Cornwall, North Londonderry, South Annville, South Lebanon, South Londonderry, and East Cornwall.

Lehigh County—Lowhill, Lynn and Weisenberg.

York County—Codorus, Jackson, North Codorus, North Hopewell, Shewsburg, Springfield, Spring Garden, West Manchester, and York.

In the general infested area, which includes all of Pennsylvania except a comparatively small number of townships in Erie and other northwestern counties, beetle quarantine restrictions are effective in the movement of earth, compost, soil, and nursery stock throughout the entire year. There are no restrictions on the movement of fruit and vegetables in the general area of infestation at any season of the year.

Farmers Face New Season Uncertain About Prospects

UNCERTAINTY existed among farmers of Pennsylvania in early March as to their plans for spring and the acreage they could plant and harvest with labor that might be available. Conditions reported in the March 1 general crop survey of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service included the following:

The 1945 farm production outlook is not too encouraging because of the help situation. Farm boys were still being called in the draft and with little other help in prospect, many farm operators were undecided on plans for the coming season.

Farmers were faced with a back-log of work caused by the hard winter. Large quantities of manure had accumulated. Fields were to be limed and fertilized, plowed and sown with the approach of spring.

Provided no severe alternate freezing and thawing were to take place before spring, prospects for another year of bumper grain and hay crops were bright. Livestock experienced a hard winter, with many animals on March 1 reported looking thin.

The maple products season was late. Fruit growers were able to prune relatively few trees. Many vineyards were still to be trimmed and log cutting and fence making was deferred due to heavy snows on the ground. Apparently no winter damage occurred to fruit trees. Quite a few growers were of the opinion that the cold weather may have been beneficial by killing some fruit pests.

February temperatures averaged only slightly above normal, and precipitation averaged somewhat below normal. In the northern counties from Erie eastward, and in the mountain areas, the accumulated record snow cover was gradually reduced by the higher temperatures of late February. But in some rural sections county roads were still blocked as the month drew to a close. Other sections of the State reported only traces of the heavy snow cover remaining, with the run-off regular and causing very little gullying of fields. Soil moisture was generally abundant.

HAY SCARCITY FAILS TO LOWER MILK PRODUCTION

UNDER a continued high rate of grain feeding per cow, milk production on Pennsylvania farms during February totaled 372 million pounds, 3 per cent above February 1944, but 6 per cent below January 1945, due to the 28 day month, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

With the advent of moderated weather toward the close of February production per milk cow in herds kept by crop correspondents reached an average of 17.6 pounds on March 1. This compares with 16.5 pounds on the same date a year ago and 16.2 pounds reported on February 1 of this year.

Hay and roughage supplies in most dairy sections have been greatly reduced by the severity of the winter. Alfalfa and clover hay is scarce in all sections of the State and the price high, in some localities as much as $50.00 per ton.

Surplus hay producing counties in the northwestern and north central districts report limited quantities of mixed clover and timothy for sale. Due to the snow blocked roads much of this hay did not move out when it normally does.

The rate of grain fed per cow continues at high levels due to dairymens' efforts to keep milk production up.

1944 WOOL CLIP SHOWS SLIGHT DROP FROM 1943

PENNSYLVANIA sheep, although fewer in number, produced nearly as much wool in 1944 as in the previous year, says the annual livestock survey of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Wool production in the Keystone State last year totaled 2,498,000 pounds, which was only 74,000 below the 1943 clip, estimates reveal. The number of sheep shorn was 333,000 or 10,000 fewer than in the previous year. The average weight per fleece was the same in both years, 7.5 pounds.

The wool produced in Pennsylvania in 1944 was valued at $1,099,000 compared with $1,157,000 in 1943. The average price received per pound was 44 cents or 1 cent below the average price received in the previous year.

National production of wool, both shorn and pulled, in 1944 was slightly more than 418 million pounds, compared with approximately 450 million pounds produced in 1943.

The pre-war value of milk cows on Pennsylvania farms was $67,843,000. This year the value is $134,232,000.

STATE FOURTH HIGHEST IN CLO-TIMOTHY HAY

HAY ranks second to corn in the value of Pennsylvania farm crops grown in 1944, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The 1944 total crop of 3,233,000 tons placed Pennsylvania 12th among all states of the United States in hay production, a drop from 11th place held in 1943. However, in value the State last year ranked 7th in the Nation which was an advance of one place over 1943.

In total hay acreage Pennsylvania ranked 12th in the Nation, a total of 2,250,000 acres being devoted to the growing of this crop. This is the same rank held by the State in 1943. In yield per acre Pennsylvania was in 13th place last year, advancing from 16th. The yield per acre was 1.44 tons whereas in 1943 the yield was 1.51 tons per acre.

The State's best ranking in hay is in the acreage and production of clover and timothy. In 1944 Pennsylvania farmers produced 2,425,000 tons of this type of hay, the State standing 4th in both production and acreage.

In the acreage of all tame hay Pennsylvania in 1944 was in 9th place among all the states, 18th in yield per acre, 10th in total production and 6th in value. The state last year stood 21st in alfalfa hay acreage and 23rd in production. Bradford is the State's highest producing hay county.

The 754,000 hogs on Pennsylvania farms January 1, 1945, were valued at $12,573,000 compared with $13,747,000 for 967,000 a year previous.

LIVESTOCK HEALTH

THE Bureau of Animal Industry during February received reports on more than 24,000 tuberculin tests applied to cattle and 46 tests to milk goats. There were only 118 cattle and no goat reactors. In Bang disease control work 2,500 herds containing 40,826 cattle were tested. Fewer than 1,400 cattle or approximately 3.3 per cent were found to be infected. State indemnities on Bang disease during February totaled approximately $44,000 and Federal payments were slightly more than $36,000.

Flocks Shrink but Egg Production Jumps

DESPITE a shrinkage of 6 per cent in the number of layers in Pennsylvania farm flocks in February compared with January, and the fact that February had only 28 days, there was an increase of 1,000,000 in the State's egg production last month, a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service in the State Department of Agriculture reveals.

The total of 223 million eggs produced in February was 37 million under the production total for the same month in 1944. The total of layers was 17,236,000 compared with 18,295,000 in January and was a million and a half under February of last year. This represented a decline contrary to average conditions which usually show an increase at this season of the year.

Egg production for March appeared promising. Weather moderated to such extent in late February that the rate of lay per 100 hens and pullets of laying age on March 1 was the highest for that date on record beginning in 1925.

However, the number of layers on farms and egg production this February showed a decrease from February a year ago of 9 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

The egg-feed ratio, showing that it took the value of 93 eggs to equal the cost of 100 pounds of feed in February, was more favorable than a year ago but less favorable than in January due to the decline in the price received by farmers for eggs. Commercial poultrymen report receiving an average of nearly 42 cents a dozen compared with slightly more than 46 cents in January. Live chicken averaged a return of 28 cents per pound compared with 27.7 in January.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — 10 — Harrisburg, March 29, 1945 — No. 13

Warn Against Purchase of Dairy Calves That Have Not Been Tested for Disease

WARNING to small and part-time farmers to buy dairy calves only from well-established or known local breeders or dairymen has been issued by the Department as a protection against fraud and deception.

There are many farmers who keep only one or two cows, Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry explained. Attracted by low prices for young stock he said such farmers are likely to become careless in the purchase of dairy calves. Frequent purchases are made without assurance that the animals have been tested for tuberculosis or Bang disease under Federal-State inspection, or that they might not have come from a herd under quarantine, he said.

Dr. Bishop advises prospective purchasers to obtain information in advance as to the tuberculosis and Bang disease status of the herd from which they intend to buy calves or older animals. Such reports can be had on application to the local district agent of the Bureau of Animal Industry, or direct from the Bureau at Harrisburg. He adds that no cattle should be moved interstate unless accompanied by a health certificate approved by the chief livestock officer of the state of origin.

The caution is the direct result of a Federal Penitentiary sentence of two years recently given Charles W. Ellis, Jr., of McGraw, New York when found guilty on eight counts of using the mails in furtherance of a scheme to defraud. It was found that he sold cattle under misrepresentation, or failed to make deliveries on time, or failed to make deliveries at all. In some instances it was found that he sold animals which were to have been registered but failed to deliver registration papers.

Bought Butcher Calves

During the Ellis trial in Federal Court at Albany, New York, it was brought out that some of the animals purchased at community sales by him as butcher calves frequently were sickly when received and in a number of instances were dead on arrival. Calves purchased in Pennsylvania or New York were shipped to various parts of the United States without complying with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry regulations governing interstate shipment of cattle. Shipments also were in violation of the livestock regulations of the states of destination, as no health charts for tuberculosis or Bang disease accompanied the calves in transit.

At the time of his trial Ellis testified that he then was operating the Athens Dairies Company in Athens, Pennsylvania. Previously he had advertised himself as a breeder of high-grade Holstein and Guernsey cattle, and operated through the agencies of the Homestead Farms, McGraw, N. Y.; Maple Lawn Farms, Cortland, N. Y.; Pasttime Farms, Unadilla, N. Y.; and Sayre Dairy Cattle Company, Sayre, Pennsylvania. His record includes conviction and a six-month imprisonment on the charge of selling animals infected with tuberculosis in 1925.

Intentions to Plant Spring Crops are Cut By Labor Shortage

"IT is now apparent that farmers of Pennsylvania have reached the peak of crop production for war, and that this year, though willing to do more, they must fall slightly behind 1944 in the acreage to be planted in field crops this spring." Secretary Horst said in commenting on the annual Federal-State Crop Reporting Service survey of prospective plantings in Pennsylvania for 1945.

Uncertainty as to farm labor and machinery to be available for planting and harvest—plus their gamble on weather conditions—has prompted Keystone farmers to report that oats will be the only food or feed crop to be planted this spring where the acreage will be greater than last year. Acreages of corn, barley, soybeans, hay and potatoes will be less, but an increase in tobacco is reported. Last fall's winter wheat planting of 950,000 acres was 2 per cent more than that seeded a year earlier.

"There is still doubt in the minds of many farmers as to the extent they can go this year with crops," the Secretary said. "Many have had sons or other young workers called in the draft and the older workers cannot be expected to carry the overload. There is nothing farm operators can do except cut down on their acreages."

A summary of intentions of Pennsylvania farmers for 1945 crop acreages follows:

Corn—1,414,000 acres, a drop of 1 per cent from 1944 plantings and 1 per cent under the announced State goal for 1945;

Oats—857,000 acres, a gain of 1 per cent over 1944 and 1 per cent over the goal;

Barley—96,000 acres, a drop of 2 per cent from 1944 and 10 per cent under the goal;

Soybeans for all purposes—98,000 acres, 18 per cent under 1944;

Tame hay—2,210,000 acres, 1 per cent under 1944 and 1 per cent under the goal;

Potatoes—157,000 acres, 6 per cent under 1944 and 12 per cent under the goal;

Tobacco—35,600 acres, 5 per cent over 1944 and 4 per cent under the State goal.

Nationally there will be increases of 12 per cent in the acreage of winter wheat and 8 per cent in oats to be harvested and the following decreases: corn, 3 per cent; barley, 14 per cent; soybeans, 2 per cent, and potatoes 4 per cent. Hay will be about the same as last year.

The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. Actual plantings in 1945 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' actions. Compared with the 10-year average (1934-43) Pennsylvania plantings this year will be higher for corn, soybeans and tobacco; lower for oats, barley, potatoes and hay.

FARMERS PLAN TO BUY 13 PCT. MORE CHICKS

SHOWING a marked increase in poultry activities in Pennsylvania so far this year compared with last, a Federal-State report declares that intended purchases of baby chicks in 1945 by farmers of the State will amount to a 13 per cent jump over purchases in 1944.

Also, some commercial hatcheries have indicated a scarcity of hatching eggs, coupled with a trend toward heavier breeds which, according to observers, is interpreted as an effort to meet the increasing demand for poultry meat and ease the scarcity that exists throughout the Nation.

Nationally, however, the output of baby chicks by commercial hatcheries during February was 12 per cent under the same month last year. The demand for chicks for meat is relatively stronger than for pullets for replacement stock.

Demand for turkey poults in Pennsylvania is reported as excellent. Although orders at first were slow, some hatcherymen have their entire supply for the season already booked. Farmers this year are looking ahead to the biggest turkey production in the history of the State, having indicated intentions to raise a total of 1,542,000 birds, 20 per cent more than last year.

During the first two months of this year commercial hatcherymen in the State turned out 12,400,000 baby chicks, approximately 2 million more than in the same period in 1944. In February alone the output was 1,577,000 ahead of the same month last year.

SET NEW RECORDS FOR TOMATO INSPECTIONS

ALL former records for Federal-State inspections of tomatoes for canning in Pennsylvania were broken in 1944, according to D. M. James, supervising inspector, Bureau of Markets.

During the past season inspectors handled 201,000,000 pounds of tomatoes delivered to processing plants, despite a serious shortage of inspectors. Farmers had greatly increased their acreages over the previous year in developing this cash crop to the point where the State now ranks fourth in the Nation in canning tomato acerage. This was an advance from average of eighth place held by the State for the 10-year period 1933 to 1942.

Farmers boosted the acreage from the 10-year average of 15,700 to 28,600 in 1943 and 36,100 acres in 1944. Farm income from the tomatoes increased from the average of $1,426,000 to $5,357,000 last year. Mr. James reports the average grades for the 1944 canning tomato crop were relatively high, 72 per cent running U. S. No. 1, 27 per cent U. S. No. 2 and 1 per cent culls.

With government and civilian demands for canned tomatoes and tomato products continuing heavy, processors are hoping that farmers will be able to increase acreages in 1945, Mr. James reports. However, contracts with growers are not coming in rapidly due to the shortage of farm labor.

FARM WORKDAY

FARM employment increased somewhat less than usual in Pennsylvania during February and the length of the farm workday was slightly under that of a year earlier, according to a Federal-State study.

As of March 1 farm operators were working 11.7 hours a day compared with 11.9 hours a year earlier and an average of 10.9 hours on the same date in the pre-war year of 1940. Hired workers were putting in an average of 10 hours per day compared with 10.2 hours last year and 9.7 hours average for March 1, 1940. There were 74 Newfoundlanders and 5 Jamaicans employed in Pennsylvania at the end of February.

Write . . . If You Want News Bulletin

The Weekly News Bulletin is mailed free to those who find it useful in the promotion of Pennsylvania agriculture. Beginning with the issue of May 3, 1945, copies will be mailed only to present readers who make a SPECIFIC REQUEST by mail prior to that date. Names of all who do not make such request will be dropped from the list on May 3, Use a post card, letter, or the convenient form provided below.

MILES HORST, Secretary.

Date: *1945*

The Hon. Miles Horst, Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Please continue mailing the Weekly News Bulletin to:

Name .....
(Please print or typewrite)

Street & No. or Rural Route .....

Post Office ..... *County* .....

829

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, April 5, 1945 | No. 14

Farm Income Passes Half-Billion Mark First Time in Penn'a

IN 1944, for the first time in the history of Pennsylvania agriculture, cash receipts from farm marketings exceeded half a billion dollars a year.

The 1944 total of $532,239,000 is $38,-410,000 more than the 1943 total cash receipts from Pennsylvania farm marketings, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. These totals do not include government payments to farmers which in 1944 amounted to $29,508,000 compared with $10,472,000 for the previous year. Increases in government payments in 1944 over 1943 were due largely to substantial advances in the payment of subsidies for milk production.

Farm cash income for 1944 was sufficient for Pennsylvania to retain its rank of 14th among all the states in the income from its crops, livestock and livestock products.

In commenting on the increases, Secretary Horst stresssed that the receipts are gross receipts and not net receipts.

"Farming expenses in 1944 were also the highest in history," he explained. "Farm wages reached an all-time high and are still going up as farmers are forced to compete among themselves and with industry for labor. Costs of livestock and poultry feeds have increased steadily. Seeds, insecticides and many other supplies are costing more. All such expenses must be deducted from gross receipts.

"The average net income per Pennsylvania farm for last year is conservatively estimated at $1200, which compares with nearly twice that amount averaged by Pennsylvania factory workers."

The 1944 increase is attributed mostly to the larger field and fruit crops harvested. Receipts for such products totaled $146,456,000, an increase of $25,747,000 over 1943. Receipts from livestock and livestock products in 1944 amounted to $385,-783,000, an advance of $12,663,000 over 1943.

GROWERS DISPOSE OF '44 CLOVER & TIMOTHY SEED

NEARLY half, or 47.5 per cent of the 25,000 bushels of red clover seed grown last year by Pennsylvania farmers will be retained for sowing on their own farms this spring, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Up to mid-February, 8 per cent of the Pennsylvania crop was sold to dealers and nearly 10 per cent had been sold to other farmers. Between February 15 and planting time the growers planned to sell an additional 4.5 per cent to dealers and slightly more than 30 per cent to farmers.

It is indicated also that growers retained 44 per cent of the 1944 timothy seed crop for their own planting. Production amounted to 14,100 bushels of which 39 per cent was sold by growers to other farmers.

COLD STORAGE

APPLE holdings in Pennsylvania cold storage houses on March 1 totaled 1,201,000 bushels compared with only 445,000 bushels a year earlier, according to Federal-State reports.

Dairy and poultry holdings on the same date included: 4,546,000 pounds of creamery butter; 552,000 pounds of cream; 3,716,000 pounds of cheese; 11,-000 cases of shell eggs; 4,201,000 pounds of frozen eggs; and 7,437,000 pounds of poultry.

Compared with February 1 holdings, stored apples were reduced about 380,-000 bushels; butter was about 280,000 pounds more; cheese was about 100,-000 pounds more; frozen eggs were down approximately 1,200,000 pounds, and poultry holdings were 680,000 pounds less.

'LOCUSTS' COMING

APPEARANCE in 15 Pennsylvania counties of Brood II of the periodical cicada, better known as the "seventeen-year locust," is scheduled for late May of this year. Brood I of the thirty known broods of the insect appeared in woodland and mountain areas of Franklin, Cumberland and Adams Counties last year, but inflicted little damage to trees and shrubs.

Pennsylvania is but one of many states to be visited for about a month (June) this year by Brood II. The invasion will cover most of the Atlantic Seaboard from Connecticut to North Carolina, plus West Virginia and Indiana.

The "17-year locusts" will appear this year in the following Pennsylvania counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill and Wyoming. They may appear also in parts of counties adjacent to those listed. The Bureau plans to check on all appearances.

The periodical cicadas will emerge from their 16-year life under ground with the coming of warmer weather, perhaps before Memorial Day if present early spring weather continues, says Dr. A. B. Champlain, advanced entomologist in the Bureau.

Following mating on emergence, the female "locusts" will cut long slits in the bark of small tree twigs in which to deposit their eggs. These slits weaken the twig so that they break and the tips die. Where infestation is heavy the browned leaves of the broken twigs present the appearance of devastation. Upon hatching, the young cicada drop to the ground and immediately burrow under the surface where they live on root juices for the best part of 17 years when they reach the adult stage and start the cycle all over again.

There can be no advance estimate of the number of "locusts" that will appear in these counties or the damage they may inflict on trees, Dr. Champlain explained. The most serious damage is likely to be on young fruit trees near forest areas. The insects are most abundant in mountainous and forest areas, and there should be no great cause for alarm, he added.

Pennsylvania vegetable growers intend to plant a smaller acreage in cabbage for late summer harvesting this year than they did last, but will plant slightly more early fall cabbage, according to reports.

First Pennsylvania Certified Hybrid Seed Corn Used

PENNSYLVANIA farmers this spring will be using Pennsylvania State certified hybrid seed corn for the first time. Certification of such seed was authorized last June by Secretary Horst, with the result that the product of 416 acres of Pennsylvania-grown hybrid seed corn passed all field inspections and was made available for planting this year.

The rapid increase in popularity of hybrid corn has been one of the outstanding advances for Pennsylvania agriculture in the past 10 years. It was first introduced in the State about 12 years ago. According to Federal-State Crop Reporting Service records, the 1944 crop was 54 per cent hybrid compared with 44.7 per cent in 1943. Of the 1,402,000 acres of corn grown in Pennsylvania in 1944 a total of 757,-000 acres were hybrid types. In Lancaster County alone more than 90 per cent of all corn is hybrid.

Hybrid corn is grown like any other type but differs from ordinary open-pollinated in that pollination is controlled by the grower of the seed. The pollen of one plant is used to fertilize the silk of another and the one produced by such crossing is the hybrid seed. It requires 5 years to produce foundation stock. Farmers like to use the hybrid seed because it yields heavier, withstands drought conditions better and is usually more resistent to insect and disease damage. Twelve varieties were certified this year, each of which has been approved for adaptability to Pennsylvania conditions by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State College.

The Bureau of Plant Industry reports that growers of commercial hybrid seed corn entered approximately 615 acres for inspection under State certification rules and regulations. Inspectors rejected 200 acres, chiefly because the fields were not sufficiently isolated from other types or because detasseling requirements were not met. The average yield of certified seed in the first year of this new State service was approximately 25 bushels of shelled seed corn per acre.

Hybrid seed corn cannot be sold as certified in Pennsylvania if the moisture content is over 14 per cent. Such seed must germinate 90 per cent or more and show a purity of 99 per cent or better.

Dog Quarantines Aid Fight Against Rabies As Bureau Reports 75,000 Strays Killed in '44

COOPERATING in the State's fight to avoid another record year for rabies spread by stray and uncontrolled dogs, sixteen Pennsylvania cities and boroughs in ten counties by the end of March had clamped down by ordering strict quarantines on all dogs, whether licensed or unlicensed, Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, reports.

By late March last year rabies had reached epidemic proportions in some Western Pennsylvania communities where more than 20 quarantines were in effect. By May the quarantine areas had increased to more than 50 throughout the State. In the first three months of 1944 a total of 273 cases of rabies were reported and 5,-822 stray and uncontrolled dogs had been killed. To March 22 of this year 154 cases of rabies had been reported and 5,582 dogs killed. Last year was the heaviest rabies period in the history of the State, 902 animal and three human deaths being reported.

Since mid-February dog agents of the Bureau have been issuing warnings in house-to-house check-ups on unlicensed and uncontrolled dogs. In Allegheny County alone more than 400 dog owners who failed to comply with the State Dog Law after due warning were taken before local peace officers.

Dr. Bishop said approximately 75,-000 stray, unlicensed dogs were killed last year in the State. The recorded total is 65,556 reported as follows: local police officers killed 23,196 dogs; Bureau agents killed 1,286; game wardens 890; the Animal Rescue League disposed of 15,366 in the city of Pittsburgh; and in Philadelphia the S. P. C. A. and other agencies disposed of 24,818. It is estimated that close to 10,000 dogs killed were not reported to the Bureau.

Dog law quarantines were in effect by late March in the following municipalities, according to reports to the Bureau: Beaver County, New Brighton Boro and Rochester; Crawford County, Spartansburg Boro; Fayette County, Connellsville; Washington County, Canonsburg and Centerville Boro; Westmoreland County, West Newton Boro and N. Belle Vernon Boro; Warren County, Warren Boro; Lackawanna County, Carbondale; Wayne County, Waymart Boro; Susquehanna County, Montrose Boro; Montgomery County, Abington, Lansdale Boro, North Wales Boro and Rockledge Boro.

PA1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, April 12, 1945 — No. 15

Penn'a Farm Real Estate Values Advanced 11 Pct. in 1944; Values 42 Pct. Above 1935-39

FARM real estate values in Pennsylvania advanced 11 per cent during the year ended March 1 compared with an advance of 7 per cent in the preceding 12-month period, Secretary Horst announced following completion of a preliminary survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

This advance of 11 per cent is exactly the same as for the country as a whole. Data from selected Pennsylvania counties indicate that the volume of sales during 1944-45 was virtually equal to that of 1943-44, with the peak of sales reached during the first quarter of 1944.

Farm real estate values in Pennsylvania today are 42 per cent above the five-year average, 1935 to 1939, a period when such values were near their lowest between the two World Wars.

Secretary Horst expressed belief that trends evident in 1943-44 were carried into 1944-45. These include purchase of most farms by farmers—both tenant and previous owners—who are expanding their holdings, and purchases by war workers who formerly were farmers. Other war workers have been buying small places for security after the war.

The upward trend in Pennsylvania farm values on March 1 reached its highest point since the 1920 boom days. Using 1912-1914 values per acre as a base of 100, the index in 1920 was 140. Ten years later the index dropped to 107 and struck a low of 78 in 1933. By 1940 the index was up to 90 and three years later it had reached 104. It advanced 7 points to 111 by March 1, 1944 and this year mounted to 123, an advance of 12 points. This compares with the United States index of 126 for 1945.

Farm Prices Show Seasonal Decline

PENNSYLVANIA agriculture, measured by prices received by farmers for their products, went through a seasonal slump during the month ended March 15, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Within the 4-week period the index of prices received for principal agricultural products dropped 2 points, from 211 to 209, based on the 1909-1914 average as 100. At the same time the index of prices farmers must pay for services and supplies advanced 1 point, from 172 to 173.

Accompanying these slight reverses was a drop of 2 cents in the purchasing power of the farmers' dollar. Figured on the basis that the farmers' dollar for the 1909-14 period was worth 100 cents, on March 15 it was worth $1.21, compared with $1.23 on February 15 and $1.18 a year earlier.

Seasonal decline in prices received by farmers for poultry, eggs and milk are largely responsible for the all-over drop of two points in the index. While meat animals as a group showed no change, there were advances for all grains except corn and buckwheat. The Federal-State survey revealed that wholesale milk dropped 5 cents per hundred pounds to an average of $3.60. Poultry and eggs dropped 13 points to an index of 168.

March 15 average prices received by farmers for eggs was 38 cents, a drop of 5 cents per dozen; there was a decline of 2 cents a pound for live turkeys to 40 cents, and an advance of nearly 1 cent for live chickens to 30 cents per pound.

Prices received for potatoes increased 5 cents a bushel to an average of $2.00. Apples also advanced 5 cents to $2.40 per bushel. The price received for hay continued upward, the March 15 average of $23.90 per ton being $2.30 more than on February 15. Price comparisons follow:

	Mar. 15 1944	Feb. 15 1945	Mar. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.65	$ 1.58	$ 1.61
Corn, Bu.	1.42	1.34	1.34
Oats, Bu.	.95	.83	.85
Barley, Bu.	1.27	1.18	1.21
Rye, Bu.	1.28	1.28	1.21
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.30	1.05	1.05
Soybeans, Bu.	1.88	2.00	2.05
Potatoes, Bu.	1.65	1.95	2.00
Hay, loose, Ton	18.10	21.60	23.90
Apples, Bu.	3.20	2.35	2.40
Hogs, Cwt.	13.40	14.60	14.80
Beef cattle, Cwt.	12.60	18.90	18.90
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.10	16.20	15.90
Sheep, Cwt.	5.80	5.90	6.20
Lambs, Cwt.	14.10	14.00	14.20
Milk cows, Head	154.00	151.00	157.00
Horses, Head	138.00	115.00	121.00
Mules, Head	158.00	124.00	185.00
Chickens, Lb.	.271	.291	.300
Turkeys, Lb.	.375	.420	.400
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.60	3.65	3.60
Milk, retail, Qt.	.148	.148	.142
Butter, Lb.	.49	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.312	.43	.380
Wool, Lb.	.42	.48	.48

Potato Growers Plan 6 Pct. Acreage Drop

UNLESS weather conditions are much more favorable than last year there will be considerable shrinkage in the 1945 production of white potatoes in Pennsylvania, according to a Federal-State survey covering growers' intentions to plant acreage in 1945.

Growers intend to put 10,000 fewer acres in potatoes this year than in 1944, a reduction of 6 per cent. The total acreage planned as of March 1 is reported as 157,000 compared with 167,000 acres planted last year. The 1945 acreage will be 31,000 acres below the average planted in the 10-year period, 1934 to 1943.

This year's reduction is attributed primarily to the shortage of help. Seed is reported high in price and in some localities it is scarce. Some growers will increase their potato acreage because their usual plan of rotating crops calls for the use of a larger field or fields this year. For the same reason other growers will decrease their 1945 plantings.

A relatively few growers report they will increase their potato acreage this year, believing there will be an increased need or demand for potatoes in 1945-46.

The State last year produced 19,140,000 bushels of potatoes, an increase of approximately 1,500,000 over the year before. The yield per acre was 116 bushels compared with 106 for the drought year of 1943. By March 1 the quantity available for marketing was down to 3,000,000 bushels compared with 3,700,000 bushels a year earlier.

Nationally, intentions of potato growers on March 1 were to plant nearly 2,900,000 acres, 3.7 per cent below the acreage planted in 1944, and 7.6 per cent under the 10-year average. Compared with 1944, Maine is the only eastern state to boost acreage.

Warn of Possible Coming of New Poultry Disease

A NEW disease that carries a potential danger to the poultry industry if allowed to go unchecked, may come into Pennsylvania at any time.

The presence of "Newcastle disease" already has been detected in one flock in the southern part of New Jersey. Its existence is suspected in several other flocks in the same area, according to advices from the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Described as a disease of the nervous system, and given the scientific name of "avian pneumoencephalitis," Newcastle disease resembles what poultrymen know as laryngotracheitis. When afflicted, the bird shows partial paralysis, symptoms of difficulty in breathing, coughing, droopiness, and the head and neck may be twisted about in various unusual positions such as under a wing, over the back or between the legs. There is weakness of the legs, progressing to paralysis, and the toes curl inward in some cases.

Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the State Bureau of Animal Industry, has advised all field veterinarians of the Bureau to be on the watch for appearance of the disease in Pennsylvania farm or commercial flocks. Poultry owners who suspect presence of the disease are urged to get in touch with their veterinarian as soon as they determine that their birds show symptoms. The disease can be diagnosed only through special laboratory tests.

Newcastle disease was first reported in England in 1927 and shortly thereafter in a number of other countries. It was identified in California in 1942.

Dr. Bishop says appearance of the disease in the East emphasizes the need for watchfulness and the importance of prompt action in the event of any suspicious outbreaks so that its spread may be prevented. Poultrymen should promptly isolate any sick poultry and consult their veterinarian so that suspected cases can be reported promptly to the Bureau.

RABIES PEAK IN MAY

IF records of the past two years are repeated this year, the month of May will see the spread of rabies at its height in Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports.

In 1943 the number of positive rabies cases found in dogs and other animals peaked in May with a total of 104. Last year the number of cases reached 123 in two separate months, March and May. There were 112 cases in April of last year, making an all-time record total of 258 for a three-month period.

This emphasizes the necessity for keeping all dogs under control during the spring months, the Bureau cautions dog owners.

Write . . . If You Want Bulletin

The Weekly News Bulletin is mailed free to those who find it useful in the promotion of Pennsylvania agriculture. Beginning with the issue of May 3, 1945, copies will be mailed only to present readers who make a SPECIFIC REQUEST by mail prior to that date. Names of all who do not make such request will be dropped from the list on May 3. Use a post card, letter, or the convenient form provided below.

MILES HORST, Secretary.

Date: *1945*

The Hon. Miles Horst, Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Please continue mailing the Weekly News Bulletin to:

Name .....
(Please print or typewrite)

Street & No. or Rural Route .....

Post Office ..... *County* .....

415

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, April 19, 1945 — No. 16

Season 3 to 4 Weeks Ahead of Schedule Lends Encouragement to Food Production

WITH the 1945 growing season starting off three weeks to a full month ahead of normal schedule, due to the warm days of late March, farmers of Pennsylvania report surprisingly early plantings, stepped-up production of milk and eggs, and pastures in the best condition known in many years. The greatly advanced spring, however, caught many unprepared because of the shortage of help and the relatively brief period between snow disappearance and the time for getting fields into condition.

Although labor is scarce and many farmers, on account of their increasing age, cannot farm so extensively, the favorable weather conditions gave general encouragement for 1945 wartime food production. Most Victory gardens were off to an early and good start.

The unusually early season resulted from nine consecutive weeks with temperatures above normal, together with ample precipitation, the initial weekly weather and crop report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service declared. The survey covering the week ended April 10, pointed out that March was the second warmest on record, making conditions favorable for production of most crops. Plowing then was progressing, and spring work was well advanced. Some oats and early potatoes had been planted and in some sections corn ground was ready. In the southeast about 70 per cent of peas for canning had been planted.

Low temperatures of April 5 and 6 reduced fruit prospects by 5 to 10 per cent, and nipped some alfalfa. Some early strawberries were hard hit.

Quality of asparagus and spinach cut during the first week of April was "excellent." The acreage of rhubarb was reported reduced. Maple sugar and sirup production was light.

According to the Federal-State general crop report as of April 1, winter grains were excellent, the condition being the highest ever reported. Snow cover averaged 11.3 weeks for the State, the longest recorded beginning with the winter of 1928-29.

Soil moisture in all sections was adequate and dry weather toward the end of the month permitted plowing and planting to get under way in all areas. In the south and southeast, field work was more advanced.

Hay was very scarce in many localities, and some dairymen were obliged to reduce numbers of cows in keeping with supply of feed. Livestock in general wintered well. Meadows, especially new seedings, were very promising and pastures growing rapidly. In some localities cattle had been turned out for the season.

Poultry was short in supply but chickens were laying exceptionally well, the rate of lay on April 1 being the highest ever reported. Milk production was upward seasonally. Pigs were scarce and high in price.

Distribution of fertilizer and lime had made good progress. Many fences in the areas where snow was heaviest were in need of repair, and supplies were not available.

Following are highlights from the general crop report on conditions as of April 1:

More Wheat This Year

Condition of the Pennsylvania winter wheat crop on April 1 was such that production for the coming harvest season was estimated at 21,850,000 bushels, a substantial increase over the actual production of last year.

A yield of 23 bushels per seeded acre has been predicted by agricultural statisticians. This is an increase of nearly a bushel and half over the estimate of a year ago, and 4 bushels per acre above the 10-year average, 1934-43.

The indicated production for this year is nearly 1,750,000 bushels above last year's estimate, and compares with actual production of 20,108,000 bushels in 1944.

All winter grains were reported in excellent condition as of April 1, being the best ever reported in the State. Rye was reported as 95 per cent of normal compared with 77 per cent a year previous.

The generally good condition of the winter grains is due largely to the fact that the winter snow blanket averaged more than 11 weeks. The snow melted slowly and the run-off caused relatively light washing of fields.

Winter wheat is reported to be exceptionally good in the northwest and west-central counties where farmers reported April 1 condition as nearly perfect as they could expect. A year ago wheat showed much poorer condition, ranging from 69 to 85 per cent of normal in the nine crop reporting districts. Rye showed its best condition in the west-central counties.

Pastures Best in Years

Pastures on Pennsylvania farms were in better condition on April 1 than they have been the same date for many years. For the State as a whole the pasture condition was estimated to be 94 per cent of normal compared with 80 per cent a year earlier and 81 per cent for the 10-year average, 1934-43.

According to the Federal-State report, pastures in the northwest section showed a condition of 97 per cent, the highest reported for any section of the State. The north-central and central counties were reported to be nearly as good.

Record Snow Cover

Farms in the north-central counties had a blanket of snow on the ground for nearly 14 weeks, a period longer than winter itself. The average of 13.9 weeks with snow on the ground in that area was higher than for any other section of the State. The northeastern counties averaged 13.4 weeks, which was second highest and in the southeast corner the snow covering lasted only 8 weeks. The State average was 11.3 weeks.

Other sections of the State were covered with snow for the following periods: northwest 12.5 weeks; west-central 11.6 weeks; central 12.2 weeks; east-central 10.4 weeks; southwest 11.0 weeks and south-central 9.7 weeks.

During the winter of 1943-44 the northeast section had the longest period of snow covering, nearly 5 weeks, and in the southeast section the covering averaged only 2.4 weeks.

Fruit Prospects Drop

Expectations for a very good fruit crop in Pennsylvania prevailed on April 1 but the low temperatures a few days later were estimated to have reduced prospective fruit production for the State as a whole from 5 to 10 per cent.

The pre-freeze survey, compiled from reports of fruit growers in all sections of the State, showed that all trees and vines, with few exceptions, came through the winter in excellent condition.

Rabbits and mice caused considerable damage to young trees in the western part of the State which was blanketed with snow for several months. In the Erie belt deep snow caused grape vines to be neglected somewhat, but prospects are for a good crop.

Apricot, peach, plum and early cherry trees were in full bloom in southeastern areas before April 1. Some orchardists were inconvenienced by delay in receiving spraying materials, and with others lack of help for pruning trees, trimming vines, and cleaning orchards was acute on account of the surprisingly early season.

Acreages Drop for Strawberries and Spinach in State

REDUCTIONS in strawberry and spinach acreages for Pennsylvania this year compared with last have been announced as the result of a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Strawberry acreage (late spring) is only 3,100 compared with 3,500 last year, and spring spinach is being grown on 2,500 acres, a reduction of 200 from 1944.

While the freezing weather of April 5 and 6 damaged some early strawberries, beds throughout the State generally had a long and ample covering of snow and came through the winter in good condition. Due to last summer's drought in eastern areas the stands are poor.

Home-grown asparagus became available to Pennsylvania consumers at least three weeks earlier than usual. Condition of the crop is reported "excellent." In most of the State, wintered-over berry and vegetable crops came through the winter in fine condition.

Asparagus beds in all but the northern sections had pushed through the ground by the first of April. The early warm weather caught many growers with beds not yet conditioned and practically no help available. A little asparagus was marketed in late March. With continued favorable weather, volume movement of the crop from the Bucks-Philadelphia area should come during the latter part of April.

Wintered-over spinach, early spring companion of asparagus, started to market from the Bucks-Philadelphia area on March 25, the earliest on record. Plants came through the winter in perfect condition and warm weather brought the crop on rapidly. Spring-planted spinach will be ready for marketing in good volume from April 20 to about May 15, if weather continues favorable.

Old cabbage, what little there is in the Waterford area in Erie County, was not moving at all, the report reveals. The few old crop carrots left in the Bucks-Philadelphia area were in very poor demand due to the competition from western bunched stock.

GRAIN STOCKS EXCEPT SOYBEANS ARE HIGHER

STOCKS of all grains except soybeans held on Pennsylvania farms on April 1 were higher than at the same time last year, a Federal-State survey revealed.

Holdings of corn amounted to 18,268,000 bushels or 43 per cent of the 1944 production. This amount exceeds the holdings of April 1, 1944 by 3,871,000 bushels, indicating that the farmers of the State are not faced with the critical shortage of livestock feed grains which existed a year ago.

April 1 stocks of other grains on Pennsylvania farms included: wheat 4,260,000 bushels, or 21 per cent of last year's crop; oats 8,608,000 bushels, or 36 per cent of the 1944 crop; barley 579,000 bushels, 22 per cent of the original crop; rye 140,000 bushels, 19 per cent of the total crop harvested last year; and soybeans, 148,000 bushels, 30 per cent of the 1944 crop. A year ago the soybean stocks amounted to 233,000 bushels or 37 per cent of the crop of 1943.

Corn holdings are about the same as the 10-year average, 1934-43. Wheat stocks are about 425,000 bushels more than average and oats stocks about 1,629,000 below the 10-year average.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, April 26, 1945 | No. 17

Favorable Weather Boosts Production Of Eggs in State

THE surprisingly early spring has been very much to the liking of Pennsylvania farm poultry flocks. Warm days of late March brought about something of a record in egg production, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Although the number of layers in Pennsylvania farm flocks during March averaged 6 per cent fewer than in February, total production of 285 million was 62 million more eggs than produced in the previous month.

During March the number of eggs per layer jumped from an average of not quite 13 to 17.61, which is regarded as an unusual advance, even though seasonal increases are customary at that time of year. Furthermore, the report states that the rate of lay per bird on April 1 was the highest ever reported in the State.

Since March of 1944 the number of layers in Pennsylvania farm flocks decreased more than 2,300,000 to 16,176,000. Egg production for March 1945 was 8 per cent or 25 million less than March 1944.

The egg-feed ratio of 101, the number of eggs required to equal in value the cost of 100 pounds of feed, was much more favorable than a year previous when the ratio was 138 Prices received for live chickens reflected the seasonal advance and eggs the seasonal decline.

ELM LEAF BEETLE TOPS BUREAU INQUIRY LIST

FEARS of many householders that hundreds of small beetles found in attics and walls with the coming of warmer weather might be injuring the woodwork, were set at rest by Department entomologists.

Scores of specimens of the insect have been received and identified by Dr. A. B. Champlain, Bureau of Plant Industry, as the elm leaf beetle. It tops the list of household pests received for identification this spring, but is absolutely harmless to anything except the foliage of the elm trees. They will not bite or sting and the only problem faced by occupants of houses invaded by the pest is to destroy the insects.

The elm leaf bettle is about one-fourth inch in length, light yellow when first emerged, with a dark olive-green stripe along the outer margin of each wing cover. Beetles now being found are adults that have hibernated in sheltered places through the winter. They are dull olive-green with the dark stripe rather indistinct.

The beetles emerge from their winter quarters on warm days of early spring and fly to elm trees where they eat holes in the unfolding and expanding leaves. Beginning late in May or early June, eggs are laid which hatch in about a week. Larvae feed upon the undersurface of the leaves, eating away all except the framework and the upper layer. The damaged leaf turns brown and falls from the tree. Where infestation is heavy entire trees can be defoliated.

When elm leaf beetles are found in houses they should be swept up with a broom or vacuum cleaner and destroyed, Dr. Champlain advises. This not only removes a potential danger to the elms in the neighborhood, but cleans up a nuisance on the premises. Spraying the elm trees with arsenate of lead when the larvae are feeding will reduce the danger to the trees as well as the numbers that will come into the houses in the fall.

The Bureau of Animal Industry reports more than 5,000 swine vaccinated against hog cholera on 69 premises during the month of March. There were 2 premises quarantined on account of the presence of hog cholera during the month.

CHERRY RECORD

ARMY and civilian demands for Pennsylvania processed cherries pushed State inspection to an all-time record high in 1944, according to D. M. James, supervisor of fruit and vegetable inspection work in the Bureau of Markets.

The inspection record of 10,760,000 pounds of sweet and sour cherries compares with only 2,102,000 pounds inspected in 1943 when the State crop was curtailed because of freezing injury that year. The previous high was in 1941 when 10,618,000 pounds were inspected.

Mr. James said that practically all Pennsylvania cherries, both sour and sweet, which were sold to canners and quick freezers, were handled on the basis of official grades under Federal-State inspection. He explained that this inspection assures growers of high quality premium returns.

Pennsylvania ranks 7th in the Nation for the production of cherries, with a total of 10,600 tons in 1944, or nearly 3,000 tons above the 10-year average production, 1933 to 1942. Production of sour cherries has increased rapidly in the Commonwealth during recent years and will continue to advance since young plantings have been heavy and production is increasing each year. Adams and Erie Counties lead in sour cherry production.

CANADA ASKS HIGHER DOG HEALTH STANDARDS

RESIDENTS of Pennsylvania who desire to take dogs into Canada are advised by the Bureau of Animal Industry that a new form of health certificate for the dogs is now required by Canadian authorities.

The regulation is designed to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases of dogs, according to Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau. The new form of health certificate must state, over the signature of an accredited veterinarian, that the dog or dogs are free from contagious diseases, have not been exposed to rabies, and that no case of rabies has existed within 50 miles of the place where the dog or dogs have been kept for a period of 6 months immediately prior to the date of shipment to Canada.

Such certificates may be obtained through accredited veterinarians. Before they are valid they must be endorsed by Dr. J. B. Reidy, Federal Inspector in Charge, or Dr. DeWitt LaGrange, U. S. Inspector for the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, P. O. Box 174, Harrisburg, Pa.

SOME SPRAY MATERIALS WILL BE SCARCE IN '45

IN ANTICIPATION of what may prove to be the tightest year of the war for domestic supplies of agricultural insecticides and fungicides, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry urges farmers, commercial fruit and vegetable growers and Victory gardeners not to delay orders and purchases.

On many materials the supply will be adequate, he said, but manpower shortages, scarcity of supplies and transportation have handicapped manufacturers and will contribute to shortages.

Copper sulphate stocks have never been lower at the beginning of the season, according to reports received by the Bureau. On lead arsenate, calcium arsenate and sulphur there apparently is an adequate supply at present. Nicotine, while very tight, is an exception to the buy-early rule because it is best distributed at the time and place of actual need.

Among scarcest items this season will be paris green, rotenone, and zinc compounds. Where the desirable insecticides and fungicides are not obtainable farmers are advised to consider and obtain substitutes that they can get more readily.

Early Spring Sees New Records Set In Milk Production

CHIEFLY as a result of the early spring—three to four weeks ahead of normal—and the highest rate of grain feeding in State history, Pennsylvania dairymen reported for April 1 the highest rate of milk production per cow since records were first started in 1932, according to the monthly milk survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Average production per cow in herds of general correspondents on April 1 was 18.6 pounds of milk per day. Grain fed per cow was 7.5 pounds per day, the highest ever reported.

Total production of milk on Pennsylvania farms during March was 445 million pounds, 20 per cent above February and 9 per cent above the corresponding month in 1944.

Weather during March was extremely favorable for production, the amount per cow approaching the record for the month of 477 pounds established in 1942. Temperatures averaged 10 degrees above normal; moisture has been abundant. Pasture condition was the highest ever reported at this season. Quite a few dairymen had turned cows out part time.

Help is scarce, hay abnormally high in price, and feed short on many farms. Quite a few farmers are eliminating unprofitable producers. Increase in the number of cows appears to have been definitely halted.

STATE TURKEY GROWERS MAY SELL TO CIVILIANS

TURKEY growers of Pennsylvana will be able to sell their birds to civilian consumers without restrictions this year, according to a recent announcement of the 1945 turkey procurement program for the Armed Forces.

E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets, reminds that the Pennsylvania turkey crop this year is expected to be the largest in history, totaling more than 1,500,000 birds. While some Pennsylvania turkeys are sold in New York and other large eastern cities the great majority usually is consumed in Pennsylvania homes.

The army procurement program, operating under a set-aside order which became effective April 8, will remain in operation until the full quantity of turkeys needed is purchased by the United States Army Quartermaster Corps for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for all persons in the Armed Forces. The only eastern states affected by the order are certain counties in West Virginia and Virginia.

LABOR SHORTAGE CUTS CANNING CORN ACREAGE

PENNSYLVANIA canners of sweet corn who have been contracting with growers for the 1945 crop, generally reported difficulties in securing the desired acreage to fill government goal requests, according to D. M. James, supervising inspector for fruits and vegetables in the Bureau of Markets.

Shortage of farm labor, farm machinery and transportation facilities are given as reasons by growers for intentions to plant fewer acres in sweet corn for processing. Early reports appeared to indicate that in some sections the same reasons may reduce the acreage of sweet corn grown for fresh market this year compared with last.

During 1944, Federal-State inspectors certified 11,020,771 pounds of sweet corn for processing at the various canning plants in Pennsylvania. The corn was purchased from growers for canning, freezing or drying. This amount was approximately 1,500,000 pounds less than that inspected during the season of 1943, due to the unfavorably dry weather which reduced yields in 1944.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 3, 1945 | No. 18

Farm Wage Rates Reach New All-Time High for the State

FARM wage rates in Pennsylvania by April 1 had advanced to new all-time high records in each of the four principal farm labor classifications, a state-wide survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service revealed.

The new record wage average result chiefly from the decreasing supply of farm labor and continued competition among farmers and with industry for workers, observers said. The situation shows that farmers of Pennsylvania are exerting every effort to get the help needed to plant 1945 war crops in the face of a growing season that is 3 to 4 weeks ahead of normal, it was said.

Pennsylvania farm labor supply is now only 47 per cent of what it averaged in 1935-39, and is the lowest on record. The demand for farm labor, now 122 per cent of the average for that period, is 5 points lower than on April 1, 1944, and 4 points lower than on April 1, 1943. National supply on April 1 was 52 per cent and demand 127 per cent of the pre-war 1935-39 average.

As of April 1, Pennsylvania farmers were paying hired day workers an average of $4.50 per day without board, an advance of 40 cents since the same date in 1944. The average wage paid per day with board was $3.65, also an advance of 40 cents per day in the 12-month period. Workers engaged by the month without board on April 1 averaged $91.25 for their labor, an advance of $8.50 over the rate paid a year earlier. Those who work by the month and receive board as part of their pay, averaged $62 which was $7 more than at the same time in 1944.

Although figures are not available for Pennsylvania alone, wage rates for the Middle Atlantic States on April 1 were 327 per cent of the 1910-14 average, and showed an advance of 34 points since April 1, 1944. Nationally, the wage rate index reachd the highest point in 78 years of record.

Chick Sales Trend To Heavier Breeds

FARMERS of Pennsylvania are making an effort to meet consumer demand for more point-free poultry meat. There was a marked increase during the month of March in some sections of the State in orders placed by farmers with commercial hatcheries for chicks of the heavier breeds, according to a survey of hatchery production made by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The increase was in addition to the normal demands for laying stock.

Demand for baby chicks during the month was not only rated as good, but in many instances exceeded the supply. The demand is expected to continue through April and the early part of May, despite handicaps of ceilings, labor shortages and high feed costs. The quantity of eggs for hatching is insufficient in some localities due to the decrease of flocks when there was an unfavorable egg-feed ratio.

During March the number of chicks produced by Pennsylvania commercial hatcheries totaled 15,100,000, an increase of 15 per cent over March 1944, and 62 per cent above the average for the 5-year period, 1939 to 1943.

Throughout the country, as in Pennsylvania, the demand for turkey poults continued very strong.

January through March the number of chicks hatched in Pennsylvania was 26,600,000, which exceeded the first three months of 1944 by 13 per cent.

Final estimates of chicks hatched in Pennsylvania for the entire year 1944 total 61,250,000 and for the nation as a whole, 1,283,044,000.

State Orders 100-Day Dog Quarantine for Allegheny County as Rabies Control Step

SECRETARY Horst, on April 24 announced a 100-day rabies quarantine for Allegheny County, including the city of Pittsburgh, effective Monday, May 7.

In effect, the quarantine means that any and all unmuzzled dogs, whether licensed or unlicensed, vaccinated against rabies or unvaccinated, except when being led on a leash, may be killed by police or dog law enforcement agents anywhere in Allegheny County. Owners of dogs found running at large are liable to prosecution in any city, borough or township in the county. Conviction carries a minimum fine of $25 and costs.

The Allegheny dog law quarantine is the first ordered by the State for an entire county since a general quarantine for rabies became effective in Bucks County April 12, 1937. It is the result of a marked increase in rabies in recent months in various parts of the State, most pronounced in Allegheny County, the Secretary explained.

"Rabies spreads chiefly through stray and ownerless dogs and owners who permit their dogs to run at large," he said. "In this emergency the State requests the full cooperation of all dog owners, local authorities and police. Dogs must be securely confined or restricted to the premises of the owner if we are to hold down this dreaded disease.

"Last year was the worst rabies year in the history of the State, a total of 902 cases in 28 counties. Allegheny County had more than a third of these. March, April and May were peak months. There was one human death from rabies in the county in 1944, two others in adjacent counties. Scores of persons and animals have been bitten or exposed to rabid dogs. The menace must be controlled."

Since January 15, when 1945 dog licenses were procurable, approximately 600 dog owners in Allegheny County have had to be prosecuted for refusal to observe the State dog law.

Between January 1 and March 1 of this year there were found in Allegheny County 67 positive cases of rabies compared with 62 for the same period last year. By April 15 the 1945 cases reached a total of 90, only 6 less than last year's high record for the same period. For the State as a whole, to April 15, there were 226 cases, indicating that Allegheny County has had considerably more than one-third of all cases this year.

Approximately 75,000 dogs were killed in the State last year, more than 15,300 in Pittsburgh alone.

Provisions in the Allegheny County quarantine order include:

"That each and every dog within the aforesaid limits shall be securely confined or restricted on the premises of the owner or keeper at all times, except when being led under proper restraint and except when muzzled with a well fitting muzzle that will effectually prevent biting.

"Any dog (whether licensed or unlicensed and whether vaccinated or unvaccinated) found running at large in violation of the foregoing quarantine order may be killed and the owner or keeper of such dog shall be liable to prosecution."

BROWN OR WHITE

HOUSEWIVES who are wondering why more brown-shelled eggs have been appearing in stores lately had the question unscrambled by E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets.

At the same time came assurance that there is absolutely no difference in the nutritional value, the flavor or the cooking performance in white and brown shell eggs. The popular belief that yolks of brown shell eggs is always a deeper yellow than yolks of white shell eggs also was exploded by Mr. Lawless who explained it is all a matter of feed used by the hen or pullet that laid the egg, and whether the bird is kept in the poultry house or allowed to run in the open.

Similarly, he continued, the color of the shell, whether brown or white, depends entirely on the breed or type of hen or pullet that lays the egg. In general, what are known as "light" breeds of chickens produce eggs with white shells and "heavy" breeds turn out eggs with brown shells.

Five years ago Pennsylvania farm flocks were made up of about 65 per cent light breeds and 35 per cent heavy. Then came the war and increasing demands for non-rationed poultry meat which is supplied most economically by the heavier breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds and New Hampshires, all of which produce brown eggs. Today the percentage is completely reversed—65 per cent heavy and 35 per cent light breeds in Pennsylvania flocks.

Give the same feed to a hen that lays a white shell egg and to a hen that lays a brown shell egg and the color of the yolk and nutritional value will be the same, Mr. Lawless said. It is merely a matter of shell color pigment which is characteristic of the breed of fowl. Scratch the surface of a brown shell egg with a sharp knife and it is found to be white underneath.

"There is no reason for consumer prejudice against brown shell eggs," the poultry chief declared. "There will be more browns and fewer whites in the future, and consumers can very easily learn to give greater preference to the browns."

APRIL WEATHER

CORN was planted in southeastern Pennsylvania counties two and three weeks ahead of the usual date of May 1, due to this year's extremely early season, according to Federal-State weather and crop report for the week ended April 17.

Temperature surpluses continued to accumulate during the 10th consecutive week of warm spring weather. Precipitation was below normal, but adequate. The plowing and preparation of fields was greatly advanced, with moisture conditions improved.

April 1 is usually the earliest date for planting oats, but by mid-April that task ranged from all sown in the south to one-fourth in the north. Farmers in the leading corn producing counties reported half of the ground plowed for that crop.

Latest reports on the April 5-6 freezing temperatures were to the effect that damage to fruit crops was very light. Peaches suffered little, and the early sweet and sour cherry outlook is rated only poor to fair for the State as a whole.

There were promises of a good crop of late strawberries in the southeast where plants were in full bloom.

Pennsylvania dairy cattle continued remarkable free from bovine tuberculosis during March. More than 23,000 tests were applied to cattle but only 203 reactors were found.

WHOLESOME MEAT

SIX slaughtering establishments were found to be defective during the month of March by inspectors of the meat hygiene division, Bureau of Animal Industry. However, all owners complied with requests to clean up unsanitary and other objectionable conditions, and none of the establishments was closed by the State. A total of 833 slaughter houses were examined during the month.

Nearly 50,000 animals were slaughtered in the State under inspection during March and 419 carcasses were in such condition they had to be condemned.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 10, 1945 | No. 19

Horses and Mules Drop in Numbers And Values in Year

PENNSYLVANIA'S farm horse population in 1944 experienced its greatest drop in recent years, according to a survey of livestock numbers and values made by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

There were 12,000 or 5 per cent fewer horses on farms of the State on January 1 than a year earlier, indicating that the scarcity of farm workers forced farmers to rely more on machine power during 1944 than in any other war year. The total of 220,000 horses is the lowest of record in the State and compares with 232,000 on January 1, 1944, a total of 239,000 for the previous year, and 275,000 average for the 10-year period 1934-1943.

During the year the average value of horses dropped from $121 per head to $103, a decline of 15 per cent.

While horse numbers were shrinking last year, the number of mules dropped 5,000 to a total of 31,000, a loss of 14 per cent. The average value dropped from $141 to $123 per head, a decline of 13 per cent.

Hogs were fewer in number on Pennsylvania farms last year, but they were the only group in the five species of livestock to show an increase in value, averaging $16.70 per head, an advance of 18 per cent. Cattle averaged $105 per head, a drop of 1 per cent, Sheep, averaging $7.10 per head, dropped 5 per cent during the year.

However, milk cows, averaging $141 on January 1, decreased less than 1 per cent in value per head compared with increases of 2 per cent in New York, 5 per cent in New Jersey and decreases of 3 per cent in Ohio, 2 per cent in Wisconsin, and 1 per cent in Minnesota.

The total Pennsylvania farm inventory value of the five livestock species, amounting to $212,507,000, dropped off 3 per cent from January 1, 1944 to January 1, 1945.

MORE CORN BUT LESS WHEAT IS BEING HELD

THERE was more corn but less oats and barley on April 1 in Pennsylvania off-farm storage positions exclusive of terminal markets and bins of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service found in a recent survey.

Corn in these off-farm storages in the State amounted to 790,000 bushels, 165,000 more than on April 1, 1944. Oats holdings of 605,000 bushels were 165,000 less than a year earlier. There were but 98,000 bushels of barley compared with 235,000 on the same date in 1944, and rye stocks of 20,000 were the same as a year previous.

While national wheat holdings in interior mills, elevators and warehouses on April 1 were nearly double the stocks a year earlier, such holdings in Pennsylvania were nearly one-third less than this year compared with those on the same date in 1944.

Stocks of wheat in interior mills, elevators and warehouses of Pennsylvania on April 1, 1945 totaled 425,000 bushels compared with 620,000 on the same date last year, and 682,000 bushels average for the date, 1935 to 1943. National holdings in these positions were 129,208,000 bushels compared with 66,535,000 a year previous.

Gains made by farm and garden crops in Pennsylvania through the exceptionally early season have been lost to a great extent by cold, wet weather and some unusually heavy frosts in late April and early May. Short fruit crops are anticipated in most sections of the State. For the week ending Tuesday, May 8, temperatures averaged the lowest in two months. Sub-freezing temperatures were general in the western part of the State on May 2.

QUALITY BREEDING SHOWS IN EGG LAYING CONTEST

HIGH QUALITY breeding of Pennsylvania poultry for improvement of egg production is shown in outstanding records achieved by Keystone State entries during the first 30 weeks of the 1944-45 Official Egg Laying Test sponsored by the Department.

Out of 99 pens entered in the current contest from 17 states, three Pennsylvania pullet entries ranked among the highest ten, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of poultry work in the Department. In addition, one Pennsylvania hen leads all other hen entries in the number of eggs laid so far in the 1944-45 contest, and another tops the list in lifetime points scored by hens.

In the pullet class, a White Leghorn pen owned by Guy A. Leader, York, at the end of 30 weeks ranked third in the number of points scored for eggs produced in that period, a total of 2,380 points for 2,300 eggs. Points are scored on the basis of one for each 2-ounce egg. with fractional points added or subtracted for eggs weighing more or less than 2 ounces.

A pen of New Hampshire pullets owned by H. Guy Loose, Dauberville, Berks County, ranked fifth with 2,219 eggs and 2,328 points. A White Leghorn pen from Burr's Poultry Farm, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, after 30 weeks stood in ninth place with 2,174 eggs and 2,271 points.

In the hen class a Barred Plymouth Rock owned by Fuzzydale Farms, Elverson, Chester County, produced 144 eggs for 158 points in 206 days, for the best record in the entire contest. On lifetime production in the second year, after 566 days, top point ranking is held by a White Leghorn entered by Burr's Poultry Farm with 445 eggs and 470 points.

"Such records," said Mr. Lawless, "are ample proof that Pennsylvania poultrymen are meeting with success in breeding birds for egg production. Breeders are helping to keep this State among the first ten in the United States in poultry and egg output."

STATE RANKED HIGH IN 1944 FRUIT PRODUCTION

RECENTLY compiled production comparisons for the 1944 fruit crops with other deciduous fruit producing states show that the Keystone State ranks tenth or better in all fruit crops grown commercially in the State.

Pennsylvania last year ranked fourth in the production of commercial apples and sour cherries; fifth in grapes; seventh in sweet cherries; seventh in all cherries; eighth in pears and tenth in peaches, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

In the value of 1944 fruit crops, Pennsylvania ranked fourth in commercial apples and sour cherries, fifth in grapes, seventh in peaches, pears, sweet cherries and all cherries.

Prospects for bumper fruit crops such as were harvested in Pennsylvania last year appear slim for 1945. Weather conditions are responsible for fruit losses that cannot be determined fully until after the "May-June drop." Ten consecutive weeks of unusually early spring warm weather, with frosts and freezes in many areas during the first and third weeks in April, brought losses also to some early planted vegetables, chiefly tomatoes. Opportunity to replant vegetables should prevent production losses on these crops, however.

Reports from all sections of Pennsylvania indicate that early strawberries suffered greatly from frosts. In many localities they will be a complete loss. Frosts in early April came when strawberries were in bloom in the southern counties and blossoms that survived the first attack were again subjected to heavy frosts late in April which nearly wiped them out. The freeze on May 2 inflicted still greater damage.

Pennsylvania First In Apple Inspection And in Processing

INSPECTIONS of apples purchased by Pennsylvania processors during the past season broke all previous records and placed the State first in the nation for the volume of apples inspected, according to D. M. James, supervising inspector, Bureau of Markets.

Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 135 million pounds were classified by Federal-State inspectors during the 1944-45 apple canning season. This compares with 59 million pounds inspected in 1943. The previous record was in 1942 when 132 million pounds were inspected.

According to Mr. James the major portion of all apples sold to Pennsylvania processors is now sold on the basis of official grades and inspection. This system allows the canners to pay premium prices to growers of better quality fruit, from which the highest quality canned fruit is produced.

"The Pennsylvania apple canning industry has assumed a major position in the nation both for the quantity and quality of its canned apple products," Mr. James declared. "Pennsylvania also leads all states in the volume of its apple inspection work."

Following the heavy freeze of May 2 prospects for the 1945 apple crop in the state dropped to 50 per cent or less of the 1944 harvest.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITIES HAVE DOG QUARANTINES

COOPERATING in state-wide efforts to control the spread of rabies, 31 Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships in 13 counties have instituted voluntary dog quarantines so far this year, according to Dr. Charles P. Bishop, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

In addition, all of Allegheny County, where rabies is more pronounced than in any other area of the State, went under a strict, state-supervised 100-day rabies quarantine on Monday, May 7. Ingram Borough and McKees Rocks, in Allegheny County, have been under local voluntary quarantine since February and March, respectively. Local police officers in any quarantined area are authorized to kill all dogs found running at large, whether licensed or unlicensed.

The Bureau previously had announced rabies quarantines in the following places: New Brighton and Rochester in Beaver County; Spartansburg, Crawford County; Connellsville, Fayette County; Carbondale, Lackawanna County; Abington, Lansdale, North Wales and Rockledge in Montgomery County; Montrose, Susquehanna County; Warren, Warren County; Cannonsburg and Centerville, Washington County, Waymart, Wayne County; West Newton and North Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County.

Voluntary 100-day rabies quarantines were in effect on May 1 in the following additional places: Hopewell Township, Center Township and Monaca Borough, Beaver County; Mayfield, Old Forge and Jermyn, Lackawanna County; New Castle, Lawrence County; Plains, Luzerne County; Colmar and Elkins Park, Montgomery County; Washington, East Washington and Houston, Washington County.

The Carbondale quarantine is for the full year 1945 and that in Warren is for six months.

Eggs of the eastern tent caterpillar this year hatched about a month ahead of their usual time, and were reported feeding in large numbers on their favorite food plants mostly wild cherry and apple, and other plants that are closely related, such as the flowering crab.

PA 1.24/4

MUTILATED PAGE

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 17, 1945 | No. 20

A Further Drop in Prices Received is Reported for Month

A FURTHER drop in average prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products is reported for the month ended April 15 by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Lower prices for apples, potatoes, hay, milk at wholesale and eggs could not be offset by advances in grains, chickens, and all meat animals except hogs. There was an over-all drop of 2 points in the index of prices received in comparison to the month ended March 15. On the basis of 1909-14 prices as 100, the April index for all farm products was 207. Crops dropped 6 points to an index of 223. Livestock and livestock products showed an index drop of 2 points to 201.

With the exception of corn, which showed no change, prices received by farmers for grains advanced from 1 to 2 cents a bushel and soybeans 20 cents a bushel, comparing April 15 with March 15. Hogs dropped 10 cents per hundredweight, but other meat animals reflected advances from 10 to 40 cents. Live chickens advanced one-half cent per pound while wholesale milk dropped 5 cents per hundred pounds to an average of $3.55, and eggs fell off nearly 1 cent to average 37.1 cents per dozen.

The index of prices farmers pay for goods and services remained at 173, the same as for March, but the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar dropped 1 cent from the March 15 figure to $1.20, based on the dollar being valued at 100 cents, 1909-14 average.

Some other prices received by farmers as of April 15 include: apples, $2.20 per bushel; potatoes, $1.95 per bushel; chickens, 30.5 cents per pound live weight; and turkeys, 40 cents per pound live weight. Following are price comparisons:

	Apr. 15 1944	Mar. 15 1945	Apr. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.66	$ 1.61	$ 1.62
Corn, Bu.	1.44	1.34	1.34
Oats, Bu.	.98	.85	.87
Barley, Bu.	1.31	1.21	1.22
Rye, Bu.	1.27	1.21	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.33	1.05	1.06
Soybeans, Bu.	1.90	2.05	2.25
Potatoes, Bu.	1.45	2.00	1.95
Hay, loose, Ton	18.40	23.90	22.50
Apples, Bu.	3.30	2.40	2.20
Hogs, Cwt.	13.20	14.80	14.70
Beef cattle, Cwt.	12.80	13.90	14.00
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.20	15.90	16.20
Sheep, Cwt.	5.80	6.20	6.60
Lambs, Cwt.	14.00	14.20	14.40
Milk cows, Head	155.00	157.00	154.00
Horses, Head	138.00	121.00	121.00
Mules, Head	153.00	135.00	136.00
Chickens, Lb.	.277	.300	.305
Turkeys, Lb.	.380	.400	.40
Milk, Whlse. Cwt.	3.55	3.60	3.55
Milk, retail, Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter, Lb.	.48	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.284	.380	.371
Wool, Lb.	.43	.43	.43

Meat Demand Sees Egg Output Drop

BECAUSE flocks of chickens on Pennsylvania farms had been reduced by nearly three million layers in the past year, egg production during April fell off 40 million from the all-time record for the month established in 1944, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Production of 272,000,000 eggs this April compares with 312,000,000 for the same month last year. The number of layers was only 14,868,000 or 2,906,000 fewer than a year earlier. Demand for poultry meat, heavy culling of unprofitable layers and occasional flock liquidations are said by observers to be the chief reason for flock reductions and the resulting falling off in egg production.

April egg production in Pennsylvania was 13 per cent below April 1944 and 5 per cent under production for March of this year. The rate of lay was higher than in March and higher than April 1944. However, this increased production per bird was not sufficient to offset the effect of the reduced number of layers which was 8 per cent below the previous month and 16 per cent below April 1944.

Baby chicks, which are only slightly higher in price than a year ago, are not being produced in sufficient supply to meet current demands.

Demand for eggs and poultry at ceiling prices probably will continue strong throughout most of 1945, reflecting the scarcity of red meat, high consumer income, and large military requirements, the report states. With a smaller egg production this year than last and a small into-storage movement this spring, egg supplies may be insufficient to meet demand at ceiling prices after the flush production season.

All Fruit Prospects Reduced 50 Pct. by Cold Weather; Pastures Best on Record

WHILE wheat and pasture prospects in Pennsylvania were reported excellent, weather conditions in late April were such as to reduce the outlook for fruit of all kinds by 50 per cent, according to the Pennsylvania general crop report as of May 1. Additional damage resulted from the severe frost on May 2, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service announced.

Cherries suffered most, many orchards being a complete loss. The June drop of all fruits is expected to be very heavy. Cool weather retarded vegetable crops and rains interrupted plantings.

Summer-like March weather continued up to April 14. The rest of the month was cold and wet with damaging frosts in most sections, and several light snows in northern and northeastern counties. In spite of these conditions farm work was further advanced than usual on May 1.

Profuse blossoming of fruits of all kinds suggested full crops at the beginning of April, but frosts, especially that on April 23, reduced prospects one-half. In commercial apple areas conditions are spotty, with light sets of fruit on trees which bore heavily last year.

Peaches appear to have withstood the cold better than other fruits. Condition of pears is only fair, for pollination was light. Prior to the May 2 frost, only half a crop of cherries was expected in Erie County and only a third of a crop in Adams, the two leading commercial cherry producing areas.

Severe damage was reported for grapes in the Erie belt where many shoots on vines have been frozen back, and only 25 per cent of a crop is expected in many vineyards.

Winter grains, much advanced for so early in the season, declined somewhat in condition since April 1. But the condition was still the highest of record for the date. Wheat prospects were for a crop of 21,150,000 bushels, more than a million greater than last year and about 3,000,000 over the 10-year average, 1934-43.

Condition of hay and pasture was the highest of record for May 1. In some localities alfalfa, clover and grasses had been nipped by frost. The percentage of feed of dairy cows coming from pasture was three times the usual amount at that time of year. Pasture condition on April 1 was 91 per cent of normal compared with 83 per cent a year ago.

By May 1 farmers had completed 71 per cent of their spring plowing, whereas a year earlier they had finished only 38 per cent. This compares with 65 per cent averaged for the 1934-43 period.

Strawberries Hit Hard

Total loss of the 1945 early strawberry crop in some Pennsylvania localities due to freezing weather at blossoming time during April, and need for replanting of early vegetables killed by frosts in some areas was announced in a truck crop survey covering the last two weeks in April.

Strawberries were first hit in early April in the southern counties and those that survived were struck again by heavy frosts late in the month. To the north, early berries were nearly all in full bloom when freezing weather came on April 23. Late berries in northern counties had not started to bloom and at the end of the month appeared promising.

A few fields of early planted beans and tomatoes were frosted in late April and will be replanted. Peas for canning made good progress in all areas. In late April the early sweet corn plantings were at a standstill. Early beets in the Bucks-Philadelphia area were up in many fields and appeared to have come through the frosts in good condition. Early carrots were making slow growth.

PLANES BLITZ MOTH

TWO AIRPLANES are on a blitz patrol between May 15 and June 15, scattering death to Pennsylvania's No. 1 plant insect enemy in woodlands of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre district.

Instead of dropping bombs the planes carry tanks of the war-developed insecticide known at D.D.T. (dichloro - diphenyl - trichloroethane) spreading a fine mist over tree tops in the State and Federal fight to wipe out the dreaded Gypsy Moth caterpillars. This insect long ago would have completely defoliated large areas of Pennsylvania forest lands had the State and Federal governments not spent nearly $5,000,000 in control work since 1932.

In an experiment last year with a limited quantity of D.D.T., the Pennsylvania and U. S. Departments of Agriculture conclusively demonstrated on an isolated and heavily infested 20-acre woodland area in Lackawanna County that 100 per cent control could be obtained through spraying by airplane. Following application early in May 1944, not a single living Gypsy Moth worm was found in the area during the remainder of the summer. Furthermore, no egg clusters were located there last fall or this spring, indicating the infestation was completely eradicated.

The 1945 control work is held to be of such importance that officials in charge hope to obtain an additional plane so the job may be completed by mid-June.

Ground crews previously completed knapsack spray applications of the new insecticide in all towns and villages within the area of nearly 3,000 acres which it is hoped to cover this season. The Gypsy Moth has been confined largely to areas in Lackawanna and Luzerne and to scattered sections of Wayne and Carbon Counties.

D.D.T. for the 1945 Gypsy Moth control program has been allocated to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for this special purpose since most of the supply is needed by the armed forces. The insecticide has not yet been made available to civilians. Further tests are being conducted on its effect upon beneficial as well as harmful insects.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER

FIRST appearance of European corn borer moths was reported April 30 following a field survey of the infested southeastern Pennsylvania area, conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Two years ago field corn losses from borer damage in Pennsylvania were estimated at more than $5,000,000. Last year, due largely to dry summer weather and control measures practiced by farmers and Victory gardeners in destroying old corn stalks and stubble, borer damage was not so great.

PA 1.24 /4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 24, 1945 | No. 21

1945 County and Community Agricultural Fair Schedule Includes 55 Annual Events

A PRELIMINARY listing of county and community agricultural fairs to be held in Pennsylvania during the 1945 season, announced by Secretary Miles Horst, shows that approximately the same number of such expositions has been scheduled as a year ago at the same time. Some associations are holding off final decisions pending further development of the general war situation.

The 1945 fair season, according to a Department survey, will open July 31 when the Clearfield County Fair gets under way at Clearfield, continuing through August 4. A total of 55 county and community fairs are scheduled through the summer and fall months, closing with the annual Pittsburgh Beef and Lamb Show in late November. At this time last year 54 fairs had been scheduled and 57 actually were held. Approximately 90 of the 115 agricultural fair associations in the State have maintained eligibility for state aid for premiums through the war period. Fifty-five associations participated in such aid in 1944.

Nearly 1,325,000 people attended Pennsylvania fairs last year, and it is expected this number will be greatly exceeded this year if gasoline rationing is increased for the summer and fall months. The preliminary 1945 fair list follows:

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY AND COMMUNITY FAIRS—1945

NAME OF FAIR	PLACE	DATE	SECRETARY
Clearfield County Fair	Clearfield	July 31-Aug. 4	N. G. Parke
Tioga Valley Fair	Tioga	Aug. 1-4	Carl H. Forrest
Bedford Fair	Bedford	Aug. 7-11	A. C. Brice
Kutztown Fair	Kutztown	Aug. 13-18	E. A. F. Kline
Butler Fair	Butler	Aug. 14-17	C. M. Miller
Farmers and Merchants Agricultural Show	New Bethlehem	Aug. 15-17	Louden Stuart
Mercer Central Fair	Mercer	Aug. 20-25	J. P. Orr
Jacktown Fair	Wind Ridge	Aug. 21-23	Floyd Campbell
Jenner Fair	Jennerstown	Aug. 21-24	A. O. Lape
Dayton Fair	Dayton	Aug. 21-25	M. E. Garner
Harrold Community Fair	Greensburg	Aug. 23-25	J. H. Silvis, Jr.
Grange Encampment and Centre County Fair	Centre Hall	Aug. 25-30	Mrs. Samuel Grove
Wattsburg Fair	Wattsburg	Aug. 28-Sep. 1	H. M. Burrows
Indiana County Fair	Indiana	Aug. 28-Sep. 1	Bertha E. Jones
West End Fair	Gilbert	Aug. 29	James F. Shiffer
Pittsburgh Hog Round-Up	Pittsburgh	Aug. 30	A. J. Roth
Greene Dreher Comm. Fair	Newfoundland	Aug. 30-Sep. 1	Henry G. Botjer
Stoneboro Fair	Stoneboro	Aug. 31-Sep. 3	Walter B. Parker
Montgomery County Fair	Hatfield	Aug. 30-Sep. 3	Edw. Fadely
Armstrong County Fair	Ford City	Sept. 3-8	W. B. Meckling
Lehighton Fair	Lehighton	Sept. 3-8	Frank R. Diehl
Huntingdon County Fair	Huntingdon	Sept. 3-8	Kermit L. Laney
Juniata County Fair	Port Royal	Sept. 3-8	J. H. Book
Northern Wayne Comm. Fair	Lakewood	Sept. 5-7	I. J. Weber
Linesville Community Fair	Linesville	Sept. 5-8	O. C. Lance
Waterford Community Fair	Waterford	Sept. 5-8	Ray J. Salmon
Union Co. West End Fair	Laurelton	Sept. 5-8	J. Frank Snyder
Youngsville Comm. Fair	Youngsville	Sept. 6-8	Mrs. Bertha Bradway
York Inter-State Fair	York	Sept. 11-15	John H. Rutter
Harford Fair	Harford	Sept. 12-14	Elton Robbins
Clinton Co. Grange Fair	Mill Hall	Sept. 12-15	J. Rex Haver
Twin County Fair	Northampton	Sept. 13-15	Warren J. Dech
Green Twp. Fair	Cookport	Sept. 13-15	J. D. Joiner
Conneautville Comm. Fair	Conneautville	Sept. 13-15	Byron K. Horner
Cochranton Comm. Fair	Cochranton	Sept. 13-15	Charles W. York
Sparta Community Fair	Spartansburg	Sept. 13-15	Telford S. Berkey
Sugar Grove Comm. Fair	Sugar Grove	Sept. 13-15	Everett A. Landin
West Alexander Fair	West Alexander	Sept. 13-15	Paul Rogers
Wayne County Fair	Honesdale	Sept. 18-21	R. W. Gammell
Gratz Fair	Gratz	Sept. 18-22	Guy R. Klinger
Allentown Fair	Allentown	Sept. 18-22	M. H. Beary
West Lampeter Comm. Fair	Lampeter	Sept. 19-21	W. B. Reutschler
Beaver Community Fair	Beaver Springs	Sept. 20-22	Ira A. Kline
Bloomsburg Fair	Bloomsburg	Sept. 24-29	Harry B. Correll
Stonycreek School and Community Fair	Shanksville	Sept. 26-29	Edith Geisel
Newton-Ransom Fair	Clarks Summit	Late Sept.	Edw. C. Hopkins
Falls-Overfield Voc. School Fair	Mill City	Oct. 3-5	Doris E. Gregory
Lititz Community Show	Lititz	Oct. 4-6	W. N. Young
Hollidaysburg Comm. Farm Show	Hollidaysburg	Oct. 10-12	Glenn Bressler
Mt. Joy Community Exhibit	Mt. Joy	Oct. 11-13	Mrs. Dorothy Hendrix
N. Bedford County Fair	Yellow Creek	Oct. 18-20	Howard F. Fox
Unionville Community Fair	Unionville	Oct. 18-20	Roland Conrad
Lower Mahanoy Comm. Fair	Dalmatia	Oct. 18-20	Mrs. Russel C. Tressler
Nazareth Farm Products Show	Nazareth	Nov. 8-10	Paul R. Seifert
Springfield Farm Show	Pleasant Valley	Nov. 8-10	Mark Mease (Vice-President)
Pittsburgh Beef and Lamb Show	Pittsburgh	Nov. 26-28	A. J. Roth

KOREAN WASPS FREED TO FIGHT JAP BEETLE

COLLECTION of approximately 2,000 Korean Tiphia wasps, natural parasitic enemy of the Japanese beetle, was made in Valley Forge Park this spring for liberation at strategic points in Pennsylvania where they will be most effective in the State's continuing fight against the beetle pest.

Only female wasps were gathered by agents of the Bureau of Plant Industry. They were boxed in colonies of about 300 each. When set free in other sections of the State, each would normally lay between 400 and 500 eggs on as many different Jap beetle grubs under ground. As each wasp grub develops it devours the host beetle grub.

Last year the Bureau liberated six Tiphia colonies of 400 wasps each. Under normal conditions these wasps alone should have destroyed more than 1,000,000 beetle grubs, and the same number of newly developed wasps should have emerged from the ground in May. If only half of these were females and each laid only 400 eggs on Jap beetle grubs there would be 200 million fewer beetles emerging from the ground this June, according to estimates.

However, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau, points out that this is only a small part of the unestimated Jap beetle population and that wasps alone cannot rid the State of the pests.

Following distribution of the wasps, the Department about June 1 will start spreading a limited quantity of "milky disease" spore dust in parts of the heavily infested Jap beetle area. It is made from grinding up beetle grubs that have died from a disease that kills only Jap beetle grubs with which it comes in contact.

Last winter's heavy snows gave protection to beetle and Tiphia wasp grubs alike, and beetle infestations are expected to be as heavy this year as last. Beetle grubs have been observed to be developing somewhat ahead of schedule, due to the warm weather of March and early April. Beetles therefore may be flying in numbers prior to the usual date of June 20 in the heavily infested area east and south of Harrisburg.

Poorest Year on Record for Penn'a Maple Products

HEAVY snows, lack of labor, the unusually warm weather in March, and one of the shortest sap runs in Pennsylvania maple sugar making history combined to cut production of both sirup and sugar this year to approximately one-third of the average production for the 10-year period, 1934-43, the Department announced in a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. For both State and Nation, the 1945 maple products season was the poorest of record.

The Pennsylvania season lasted no more than two or three weeks. Only 18,000 pounds of maple sugar were made, compared with 28,000 last year and 54,000 for the 10-year average. Sirup totaled 53,000 gallons, 80,000 less than last year and 101,000 gallons below the 10-year average. In terms of sugar alone, production for the State was 442,000 pounds, less than half the 1,092,000 pounds produced in 1944. Average production, 1934-43 was 1,286,000 pounds. Sugar equivalent obtained per tree was only 1.55 pounds compared with 3 pounds last year and an average of 2.42.

There was a very heavy snow cover throughout the areas where trees are tapped and drifts were as much as six feet deep during the Pennsylvania season. The depth of the snow kept many operators from gathering wood, hanging buckets and getting boiling equipment to the woods.

A number of sugar bushes were not tapped because help was not available. Only a few trees were tapped during the first of three sap runs, when the sap was of extra good quality.

Warm nights and hot days of March, when temperatures ranged in the high 80's, brought the season to an abrupt end after two more rather short runs.

As in other years sirup from the first runs rated Fancy or Number 1 and was sold quickly at the top ceiling price. Due to the small quantity of sirup made producers have no trouble marketing their products.

FEDERAL INDEMNITIES OFF UNTIL JULY FIRST

BECAUSE of an emergency reduction in Federal funds to pay indemnities until after July 1, a part of the program of testing cattle for Bang disease and bovine tuberculosis has been curtailed in Pennsylvania Dr. C. P. Bishop, Bureau of Animal Industry, announced on May 18.

Veterinarians engaged in Bang and tuberculin testing were notified that all authorizations for individual plan testing then in their possession were rescinded. However, testing on the area basis will continue without interruption.

New authorizations on individual testing will be issued in lieu of those then in the possession of veterinarians as soon as Federal funds are again available on July 1.

"We greatly regret necessity of this action," Dr. Bishop said. "It means that all cattle owners who desire to have individual animals or entire herds tested to meet emergency conditions, must waive all claims to Federal indemnity payments.

"However, Pennsylvania has sufficient funds appropriated for the payment of State indemnities for the remainder of the current biennium. All State indemnity payments will be made without fail."

Forms upon which farmers may execute waivers on Federal payments for diseased cattle which must be destroyed, are provided by the Bureau of Animal Industry. When such waivers are made tests will be authorized with the understanding that should any animals prove positive and be slaughtered, no Federal indemnity will be paid at this time or at any future date, for such reacting cattle.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 31, 1945 | No. 22

Request Reports on Appearance in State Of 17-Year Locust

FOR the purpose of maintaining for posterity an accurate record of the appearance this year in Pennsylvania of Brood II of the periodical cicada, commonly known as the "17-year locust," the Bureau of Plant Industry requests that farmers and other report appearances of the insect wherever it is found.

Brood II of the locust made its first reported appearance in Dauphin County during the week of May 21, a full week earlier than it was expected. It is one of about 30 known broods or hatches of the periodical cicada found in the United States.

According to Dr. A. B. Champlain, bureau entomologist, the 17-year locust is scheduled to appear this year in 17 counties of the State. It is entirely possible, he explains, that the insect may show up in counties that border on those in which it has previously appeared. Reports of new appearances will make valuable records in charting any spread that might take place.

According to available records, locust are expected to appear this year in the following Pennsylvania counties: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lebanon, Lehigh Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, and Wyoming.

Contrary to some popular beliefs, 17-year locusts do not sting or bite people, and damage is confined largely to forest areas, fruit trees and shrubs located near heavily wooded sections. The female locusts cut slits in the bark of tree twigs in which to deposit their eggs. Where damage is heavy the browned leaves of broken twigs present the appearance of devastation. Upon hatching, the young cicada drop to the ground, burrow under the surface and live on root juices for the best part of 17 years when they reach the adult stage and start the cycle all over again.

In reporting appearances of the locusts, the Bureau would like to know whether only a few insects are present in the community, or whether they are fairly numerous or extremely numerous.

VEGETABLE MEN REPORT WEATHER LOSSES SEVERE

LOW temperatures, and rainfall that averaged more than a third above normal, combined to retard development of planted crops and reduced the yields of early vegetables with the exception of spring spinach, according to a Federal-State survey covering the forepart of May.

The light crop of York County strawberries was expected to be ready for marketing by May 28, with home grown berries generally on markets throughout June—not any earlier than usual.

Thousands of tomato plants were lost by growers who produce this crop for canning purposes. Plants had been held several weeks, waiting favorable soil conditions. A few fields of early market tomatoes had been set out by mid-May in all sections of the State. Some of the early plants were frozen and replanting was necessary. Where they were not frosted, these early crops made slow progress due to weather conditions.

Wet weather caused many early sweet corn plantings to rot in the ground while others made very slow growth. Growers harrowed over some fields and replanted. Asparagus marketings were expected to continue for at least another month with favorable weather conditions. Spring spinach supplies were at peak in the Bucks-Philadelphia area and were expected to continue in steady volume for another month.

MILK RECORD

REPORTS of record milk production on Pennsylvania farms this spring were verified by Secretary Horst in a talk on May 23 before the Executive Committee of the Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Secretary declared that production during April totaled 471,000,000 pounds, an all-time high for the month. It was 6 per cent above March, and 11 per cent above April 1944.

Government regulations permitting an increase of butter fat in ice cream from 65 to 75 per cent on June 1 would ease the then current surplus situation only slightly, the Secretary said. Authorization to boost ice cream production would not help much in view of the sugar shortage, he added.

April production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents, the amount of grain fed, the pasture condition, and the percentage of feed from pastures—are all the highest of record in recent years for this season.

Milk production for March was also of record proportions, 9 per cent above the same month last year, and 20 per cent higher than February 1945 production. Figures were compiled through a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The Secretary said that the warm days of February and March put pastures into the best condition they have shown for many years and this is partly responsible for the increased flow of milk.

Pasture, grasses and new seedings made rapid progress during early April. However, cool weather the latter half of the month arrested development. In the higher altitudes many fields of alfalfa and clover were severely frosted.

BABY CHICK PRODUCTION FAR AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

A 21 per cent increase in the number of baby chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in Pennsylvania in the first 4 months of this year, compared with the same period in 1944, gives some encouragement for partial return to increased egg production in the State for next fall or winter, the Department announced following an April hatchery production survey compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

However, increasing consumer use of eggs as a substitute for meat and a continued drop in the size of breeding flocks, much of which is attributable to strong demands for poultry meat, are cutting seriously into egg production, observers pointed out.

Although Pennsylvania ranks 5th among all the states in the number of eggs sold last year and 3rd in value of eggs sold, production for the month of April was 40,000,000 below production for April 1944.

Hatching eggs were still scarce during April in many localities of Pennsylvania. The demand for chicks of the heavier breeds for meat continue strong. Even leghorn cockerels were in greater demand compared with a year ago. Demand is strong for May and June delivery and light for July, but is expected to be good in August. Many hatcheries do not have sufficient capacity and are turning away a considerable volume of orders. Replacement orders are spotty and demand for leghorns is beginning to fall off.

Nationally, the output of chicks by commercial hatcheries during April was the largest for any one month on record, more than 346 million. Pennsylvania production for the month was 16,250,000 compared with 11,760,000 for April 1944. Chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in this State, January to April inclusive, totaled 42,850,000 compared with 35,280,000 for the same period last year. The demand for turkey poults continued at record levels. The national output, according to hatcheries reporting, was 20 per cent more this April than April 1944.

Rural School Has Part in Post-War Farm Prosperity

AS ONE post-war guarantee to national prosperity, "farm life and living must be made more attractive to our rural boys and girls," Secretary Horst declared in a commencement address at Edinboro State Teachers' College on May 26. He talked on "The Challenge of the Rural Community."

Rural schools and rural teachers have important assignments in efforts to equalize educational opportunity as between rural and urban children, the Secretary said. He reminded that migration from farm to city will continue after the war because mechanization is reducing the number of workers required on farms. At the same time decentralization of industry and populations can be expected to bring more people into rural communities, he added.

"Our rural schools are not set up nor should they be set up to provide education that will deliberately lead youth away from the farms or farming communities," he explained. "But the schools can and should offer incentive and opportunity to select and train those outstanding individuals who are likely to contribute most to a prosperous agriculture."

Secretary Horst advocated vocational guidance for rural boys and girls so that those best fitted for farming can be encouraged to remain on the farm. Through the same process those less qualified for farming can be directed to other occupational opportunities, especially those occupations where farm background and skills can be helpful in attaining success through some experience or training.

In the latter category he listed such occupations as milk inspector, farm real estate dealer, forester on privately owned lands, golf greenskeeper, creamery plant worker, farm produce buyer, meat cutter, butcher, greenhouse worker, nurseryman, plant breeder, seed grower, hatchery worker or operator, feed, fertilizer on farm machinery dealer or salesman, "and various other occupations related to agriculture, where knowledge of farming or farm folks is a distinct asset."

SIX COLONIES OF BEETLE PARASITES ARE SET FREE

LIBERATION of six colonies of Korean Tiphia wasps, the most effective Jap beetle killers known to science, was completed by the Bureau of Plant Industry during the last week in May. Approximately 2,000 of the insect parasites, whose grubs devour grubs of the Japanese beetle, were gathered in Valley Forge Park, and one lot or colony of about 200 female Tiphias was set free at each of the following places:

Carlisle Country Club, Carlisle, Cumberland County; campus of the Saints Cyril and Methodus School at Danville, Montour County; the Wyoming Valley Country Club near Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County; the Williamsport Country Club, Williamsport, Lycoming County; the Lock Haven Country Club, Lock Haven, Clinton County; and the Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

According to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau, golf courses are ideal places upon which the beetle parasites can be established because of the wide expanse of grass sod roots, favorable for hibernation of the beetle grubs.

Colonies established last year include one each at Camp Hill, Cumberland County; Selinsgrove, Snyder County; Sunbury, Northumberland County, Williamsport, Lycoming County, Ligonier and Laughlintown, Westmoreland County.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, May 31, 1945 | No. 22

Request Reports on Appearance in State Of 17-Year Locust

FOR the purpose of maintaining for posterity an accurate record of the appearance this year in Pennsylvania of Brood II of the periodical cicada, commonly known as the "17-year locust," the Bureau of Plant Industry requests that farmers and other report appearances of the insect wherever it is found.

Brood II of the locust made its first reported appearance in Dauphin County during the week of May 21, a full week earlier than it was expected. It is one of about 30 known broods or hatches of the periodical cicada found in the United States.

According to Dr. A. B. Champlain, bureau entomologist, the 17-year locust is scheduled to appear this year in 17 counties of the State. It is entirely possible, he explains, that the insect may show up in counties that border on those in which it has previously appeared. Reports of new appearances will make valuable records in charting any spread that might take place.

According to available records, locust are expected to appear this year in the following Pennsylvania counties: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lebanon, Lehigh Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, and Wyoming.

Contrary to some popular beliefs, 17-year locusts do not sting or bite people, and damage is confined largely to forest areas, fruit trees and shrubs located near heavily wooded sections. The female locusts cut slits in the bark of tree twigs in which to deposit their eggs. Where damage is heavy the browned leaves of broken twigs present the appearance of devastation. Upon hatching, the young cicada drop to the ground, burrow under the surface and live on root juices for the best part of 17 years when they reach the adult stage and start the cycle all over again.

In reporting appearances of the locusts, the Bureau would like to know whether only a few insects are present in the community, or whether they are fairly numerous or extremely numerous.

VEGETABLE MEN REPORT WEATHER LOSSES SEVERE

LOW temperatures, and rainfall that averaged more than a third above normal, combined to retard development of planted crops and reduced the yields of early vegetables with the exception of spring spinach, according to a Federal-State survey covering the forepart of May.

The light crop of York County strawberries was expected to be ready for marketing by May 28, with home grown berries generally on markets throughout June—not any earlier than usual.

Thousands of tomato plants were lost by growers who produce this crop for canning purposes. Plants had been held several weeks, waiting favorable soil conditions. A few fields of early market tomatoes had been set out by mid-May in all sections of the State. Some of the early plants were frozen and replanting was necessary. Where they were not frosted, these early crops made slow progress due to weather conditions.

Wet weather caused many early sweet corn plantings to rot in the ground while others made very slow growth. Growers harrowed over some fields and replanted. Asparagus marketings were expected to continue for at least another month with favorable weather conditions. Spring spinach supplies were at peak in the Bucks-Philadelphia area and were expected to continue in steady volume for another month.

MILK RECORD

REPORTS of record milk production on Pennsylvania farms this spring were verified by Secretary Horst in a talk on May 23 before the Executive Committee of the Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Secretary declared that production during April totaled 471,000,000 pounds, an all-time high for the month. It was 6 per cent above March, and 11 per cent above April 1944.

Government regulations permitting an increase of butter fat in ice cream from 65 to 75 per cent on June 1 would ease the then current surplus situation only slightly, the Secretary said. Authorization to boost ice cream production would not help much in view of the sugar shortage, he added.

April production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents, the amount of grain fed, the pasture condition, and the percentage of feed from pastures—are all the highest of record in recent years for this season.

Milk production for March was also of record proportions, 9 per cent above the same month last year, and 20 per cent higher than February 1945 production. Figures were compiled through a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The Secretary said that the warm days of February and March put pastures into the best condition they have shown for many years and this is partly responsible for the increased flow of milk.

Pasture, grasses and new seedings made rapid progress during early April. However, cool weather the latter half of the month arrested development. In the higher altitudes many fields of alfalfa and clover were severely frosted.

BABY CHICK PRODUCTION FAR AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

A 21 per cent increase in the number of baby chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in Pennsylvania in the first 4 months of this year, compared with the same period in 1944, gives some encouragement for partial return to increased egg production in the State for next fall or winter, the Department announced following an April hatchery production survey compiled by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

However, increasing consumer use of eggs as a substitute for meat and a continued drop in the size of breeding flocks, much of which is attributable to strong demands for poultry meat, are cutting seriously into egg production, observers pointed out.

Although Pennsylvania ranks 5th among all the states in the number of eggs sold last year and 3rd in value of eggs sold, production for the month of April was 40,000,000 below production for April 1944.

Hatching eggs were still scarce during April in many localities of Pennsylvania. The demand for chicks of the heavier breeds for meat continue strong. Even leghorn cockerels were in greater demand compared with a year ago. Demand is strong for May and June delivery and light for July, but is expected to be good in August. Many hatcheries do not have sufficient capacity and are turning away a considerable volume of orders. Replacement orders are spotty and demand for leghorns is beginning to fall off.

Nationally, the output of chicks by commercial hatcheries during April was the largest for any one month on record, more than 346 million. Pennsylvania production for the month was 16,250,000 compared with 11,760,000 for April 1944. Chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in this State, January to April inclusive, totaled 42,850,000 compared with 35,280,000 for the same period last year. The demand for turkey poults continued at record levels. The national output, according to hatcheries reporting, was 20 per cent more this April than April 1944.

Rural School Has Part in Post-War Farm Prosperity

AS ONE post-war guarantee to national prosperity, "farm life and living must be made more attractive to our rural boys and girls," Secretary Horst declared in a commencement address at Edinboro State Teachers' College on May 26. He talked on "The Challenge of the Rural Community."

Rural schools and rural teachers have important assignments in efforts to equalize educational opportunity as between rural and urban children, the Secretary said. He reminded that migration from farm to city will continue after the war because mechanization is reducing the number of workers required on farms. At the same time decentralization of industry and populations can be expected to bring more people into rural communities, he added.

"Our rural schools are not set up nor should they be set up to provide education that will deliberately lead youth away from the farms or farming communities," he explained. "But the schools can and should offer incentive and opportunity to select and train those outstanding individuals who are likely to contribute most to a prosperous agriculture."

Secretary Horst advocated vocational guidance for rural boys and girls so that those best fitted for farming can be encouraged to remain on the farm. Through the same process those less qualified for farming can be directed to other occupational opportunities, especially those occupations where farm background and skills can be helpful in attaining success through some experience or training.

In the latter category he listed such occupations as milk inspector, farm real estate dealer, forester on privately owned lands, golf greenskeeper, creamery plant worker, farm produce buyer, meat cutter, butcher, greenhouse worker, nurseryman, plant breeder, seed grower, hatchery worker or operator, feed, fertilizer on farm machinery dealer or salesman, "and various other occupations related to agriculture, where knowledge of farming or farm folks is a distinct asset."

SIX COLONIES OF BEETLE PARASITES ARE SET FREE

LIBERATION of six colonies of Korean Tiphia wasps, the most effective Jap beetle killers known to science, was completed by the Bureau of Plant Industry during the last week in May. Approximately 2,000 of the insect parasites, whose grubs devour grubs of the Japanese beetle, were gathered in Valley Forge Park, and one lot or colony of about 200 female Tiphias was set free at each of the following places:

Carlisle Country Club, Carlisle, Cumberland County; campus of the Saints Cyril and Methodus School at Danville, Montour County; the Wyoming Valley Country Club near Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County; the Williamsport Country Club, Williamsport, Lycoming County; the Lock Haven Country Club, Lock Haven, Clinton County; and the Oakmont Country Club near Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

According to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau, golf courses are ideal places upon which the beetle parasites can be established because of the wide expanse of grass sod roots, favorable for hibernation of the beetle grubs.

Colonies established last year include one each at Camp Hill, Cumberland County; Selinsgrove, Snyder County; Sunbury, Northumberland County, Williamsport, Lycoming County, Ligonier and Laughlintown, Westmoreland County.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, June 7, 1945 | No. 23

1945--JUNE DAIRY MONTH--1945

Governor Martin says:

PENNSYLVANIA is a great dairy state. It ranks first among all the states in the manufacture of ice cream. It is first in the value of milk sold direct to consumers by dairy farmers. It is third in production of the famous Philadelphia cream cheese. It is fifth in the value of sales of all dairy products, which represent about one-third of farm income in the State.

Milk production now is at the highest level ever known in the Commonwealth. Each month sees a new record established. This is because our dairy farmers, in spite of serious labor shortages, have done more than their share in production of an essential food for war.

Every citizen of this Commonwealth can well take pride in the ability of our dairy farmers to meet civilian demands for milk and still contribute a full share to the armed forces.

The food situation is now the most critical since the beginning of the war. Dairy products form the best foundation for adequate diets. They help fill the gaps caused by shortages of certain other foods. Milk is still our cheapest food with respect to nutritional value.

The month of June is to be observed nationally as Dairy Month. It is most fitting that we in Pennsylvania, who are so dependent upon our outstanding dairy industry, during that month pay tribute to and publicly recognize the efforts of our dairy farmers and dairy processors as being vital to total victory in the fight for freedom and our way of life.

Secretary Horst says:

JUNE has been set aside for national observance as Dairy Month. It is appropriate that Pennsylvania consumers of milk and other dairy products not only consider the high nutritional value of such products when other foods are getting scarcer each day, but should realize also that milk production and distribution in this State is one of our largest and most essential industries.

Pennsylvania agriculture today represents an investment of approximately one and two-thirds billion dollars. That is more than double the capital in mining and quarrying and is nearly equal to investments in metal and metal products industries, or all other manufacturing industries in the State. One-third of the 1944 half-billion dollar Pennsylvania farm income was from dairy products, close to $170,000,000.

Since 1940, when our farmers started to increase production to meet war food demands, the dairy industry has expanded greatly. The number of milk cows in Pennsylvania has been increased by 73,000 or over 8 per cent. Milk production this year may exceed 600 million gallons for an all-time record.

June is a month of heavy milk production. War Food Administration fluid milk quotas for 1945 June Dairy Month are the highest since the war started. Consumers in restricted areas may purchase 120 per cent of the amount used in June 1943. The wholesome habit of using more milk, formed in time of plenty, should help many families to maintain nutritional standards through food shortages in the months to come.

Farm Dollar Value Increases as Prices Show Improvement

IMPROVEMENT in prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania for principal agricultural products is reported for the month ended May 15. However, increases for meat animals were accompanied by declines in prices for wholesale milk and some grains. The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar rose 2 cents above the revised April 15 figure, to $1.21, based on the dollar being worth 100 cents in the 1909-14 period.

According to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, the index of prices received within the period advanced 3 points to 209 on the basis of 1909-14 average prices equalling 100. Crops moved up 4 points and livestock and livestock products advanced 3 points.

Higher prices for corn, wheat and fruit more than offset the decline in barley, buckwheat and hay. Increases in meat animals, ranging from 20 cents per hundredweight for hogs to 60 cents for lambs, together with an advance of 2.2 cents per pound for chickens, live weight, and 1 cent a dozen for eggs, more than offset the decline of 5 cents in the wholesale price of milk per hundred pounds.

Some average prices received by farmers for the May 15 period include: Potatoes, $1.95 per bushel; apples, $2.55 per bushel; hay, $20.40 per ton; chickens, 32.7 cents and turkeys 42 cents per pound live weight; milk at wholesale, $3.45 a hundred pounds; butter, 48 cents per pound; and eggs, 38.1 cents per dozen.

	May 15 1944	Apr. 15 1945	May 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.66	$ 1.62	$ 1.63
Corn, Bu.	1.46	1.34	1.36
Oats, Bu.	.98	.87	.83
Barley, Bu.	1.33	1.22	1.17
Rye, Bu.	1.28	1.22	1.22
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.35	1.06	1.05
Soybeans, Bu.	2.00	2.20	2.20
Potatoes, Bu.	1.40	1.95	1.95
Hay, loose, Ton	18.00	22.50	20.40
Apples, Bu.	3.30	2.20	2.55
Hogs, Cwt.	12.90	14.70	14.90
Beef cattle, Cwt.	13.00	14.00	14.40
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.50	16.20	16.50
Sheep, Cwt.	5.70	6.60	7.00
Lambs, Cwt.	13.90	14.40	15.00
Milk cows, Head	158.00	154.00	156.00
Horses, Head	134.00	121.00	120.00
Mules, Head	147.00	136.00	138.00
Chickens, Lb.	.278	.305	.327
Turkeys, Lb.	.370	.40	.42
Milk, wholesale, Cwt.	3.45	3.50	3.45
Milk, retail, Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter, Lb.	.48	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.50	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.284	.371	.381
Wool, Lb.	.45	.43	.43

SPREAD "MILKY DISEASE" TO CONTROL JAP BEETLE

DISTRIBUTION of "milky disease" spore dust which kills Japanese beetle grubs, but does no other damage was scheduled to start during the first week in June. Tiny portions of the precious powder will be placed at intervals in the soil on golf courses, parks and other areas where permanent sod harbors beetle grubs over winter.

The scene of operations is expected to be on the fringe of the area of heaviest infestation, roughly a semicircle extending from the western edge of York County through eastern Cumberland, and parts of Dauphin, Lebanon and Berks Counties.

Due to war conditions, Dr Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, says the amount of milky disease spore dust that will be available this year probably will be somewhat less than the 400 pounds obtained last year. A limited quantity of beetle grubs killed by the disease have been gathered for the Bureau. The dead grubs are ground into powder.

Results of treatments made in previous years show a definite establishment of the disease with a resulting decrease in the number of grubs and beetles in the particular area. Up to this time the greater portions of Montgomery, Chester, Lancaster, York, Lebanon and Dauphin Counties have been "spot" treated with milky disease spores, mostly meadows, golf courses and parks.

The usual Jap beetle quarantine remains in effect which governs the movement of nursery stock to points outside the generally infested area, covering most of the State. Restrictions on vegetables, fruits and cut flowers apply only in the southeastern corner of the State which is known to be heavily infested, and are effective only in that season of the year when the beetle is flying, usually the last half of June to the middle of September.

PENNSYLVANIA FIRST

PENNSYLVANIA stands first among all the states in the value of milk sold at retail by producers, according to a survey on the value of various dairy products which was completed recently by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Dairy products represent the largest single item of cash income received by farmers of Pennsylvania. In 1944 farmers of the State received for such products a total of $168,371,000, according to revised estimates. This total represents more than $2,000,000 for farm butter, nearly $1,700,000 for butterfat, and $131,350,000 for wholesale milk. Milk sold at retail, direct to the consumer, brought in $33,319,000. Pennsylvania is far ahead of any other State in cash receipts for retail milk, the second highest being California with a value of approximately $23,600,000.

Observers say that Pennsylvania's leadership in producer retail milk sales value is due to the nearness of farms to town and city markets.

More Poultry in Storage

THERE were approximately 3,000,000 more pounds of poultry in cold storage houses of Pennsylvania on May 1 than on the same date last year, according to a Federal-State report. Dairy and poultry holdings on that date this year included the following:

Fluid cream, 1,254,000 pounds; plastic cream, 558,000 pounds; creamery butter, 2,531,000 pounds; American cheese, 2,943,000 pounds; shell eggs, 208,000 cases of 30 dozen each; frozen eggs, 7,123,000 pounds; poultry, 7,144,000 pounds. The poultry total compares with 4,106,000 pounds in storage in Pennsylvania on May 1, 1944. National holdings of poultry totaled 117,668,000 pounds compared with 130,044,000 a year earlier.

REVISED TOTAL FOR FARM MARKETINGS $511,898,000

REVISED estimates of cash receipts from Pennsylvania farm marketings of crops, livestock and livestock products for the year 1944 give a total of $511,898,000, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The 1944 total exceeds that for 1943 by $16,561,000. Government payments to farmers during 1944 amounted to $29,508,000 making a grand total of $541,406,000.

Actual cash receipts from farm marketings are gross receipts and not net receipts, observers point out. They say that 1944 farming expenses, including an all-time high for wages, were the highest in the history of Pennsylvania agriculture.

The 1944 farm income increase is attributed mostly to the larger field and fruit crops that were harvested during the year compared with 1943. Receipts for such products totaled $143,328,000 compared with $121,861,000 received in 1943. Receipts from livestock and livestock products in 1944 totaled $368,570,000, a drop of $4,906,000 from the previous year, according to the revised figures.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, June 14, 1945 | No. 24

Explains Coming of 17-Year Locusts in 9 Different Years

WHEN announcement was made some weeks ago that this was the year for the appearance in Pennsylvania of Brood II of the periodical cicada or "17-year locust," many letters were received by the Department expressing doubt that the insects were scheduled to appear in 1945.

To settle the question, Dr. A. B. Champlain, principal entomologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, investigated and found that no less than nine different broods or hatches of the 17-year locust make their appearance in different years and in different sections of the State. It is easy for "old timers" to confuse years of appearance, especially where more than one brood exists in a given area, he explained.

Records made over a period of many years by various observers and entomologists indicate at least 30 different broods of the periodical cicada exist in the United States. Most of these are limited to fairly definite areas, coming out of the ground every 17 years. Appearances are mostly in compact masses which attract attention through the noise of males and the damage inflicted on tree twigs by females cutting slits in the bark of twigs in which to lay eggs.

According to predictions, Brood I appeared in a few southern Pennsylvania counties last year. Early arrivals of Brood II appeared late in May in Dauphin County and should be seen and heard in 16 other counties within the next few weeks, according to records. The remaining seven broods are scheduled to appear in parts of the State as follows, with the next "big locust year" coming in 1953.

The Locust Schedule

Brood V will appear in 1948 in Fayette, Green and Washington Counties. Appeared last in 1931.

Brood VI, 1949, in Bucks, Montgomery and Westmoreland Counties. Appeared last in 1932.

Brood VII, 1950, in Allegheny and Washington Counties. Appeared last in 1933.

Brood VIII, 1951, in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Crawford, Fayette, Huntingdon, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland. Appeared last in 1934.

Brood X, 1953 (next big locust year) in Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Union, and York. Appeared last in 1936.

Brood XIII, 1956, in Lancaster County. Appeared last in 1939.

Brood XIV, 1957, in Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Clearfield, Clinton, Cumberland, Franklin, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Schuylkill, Tioga, Union, and York. Appeared last in 1940.

This year's appearance of the 17-year locust, Brood II, is scheduled for Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill and Wyoming. Appeared last in 1928.

TOBACCO STOCKS

STOCKS of Pennsylvania Seedleaf tobacco in the hands of the larger tobacco dealers, manufacturers, cooperative associations and brokers on April 1 were only 155,000 pounds lower than holdings a year earlier. Holdings on April 1 totaled 107,889,000 pounds compared with 108,044,000 pounds a year earlier. The bulk of holdings was cigar "fillers" totaling slightly more than 91,000,000 pounds compared with nearly 67,000,000 pounds on January 1, 1945. April 1 Havana Seed stocks of 3,130,000 pounds compared with 2,505,000 on January 1.

Early Elimination of Gypsy Moth Seen Through Increased Use of New Insecticide

BECAUSE a little caterpillar crawls up tree trunks at night to devour leaves, and then crawls all the way back to the ground before daybreak, many millions of dollars will be saved for taxpayers of Pennsylvania, New York and all New England states.

Quick to take advantage of this natural habit of the dreaded gypsy moth worm, State and Federal entomologists have used D. D. T., the war-developed miracle insecticide, with such effectiveness that Secretary Horst declared "it spells the doom of the most destructive plant pest of the northeastern states." The insect can be completely eliminated from Pennsylvania within a few years, he added.

Accompanied by agricultural and forestry officials of New York and Pennsylvania, Secretary Horst on June 7 inspected results of spraying D. D. T. by airplane in the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton area. Two planes this year are covering nearly 3,000 acres of the 600 infested square miles in Carbon, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. The gypsy moth has been confined to this area by State and Federal control work over the past 12 years at a cost of about $6,000,000.

Visiting officials found that, in large areas of forest land infested with gypsy moths, airplane spraying with a fine mist of D. D. T. over tree tops kills all caterpillars. Control in towns and in small infested areas presented a problem until those in charge took advantage of the fact that adult caterpillars desert their treetop feeding grounds just before daylight. They travel down the trunk to hide under sticks, stones and leaves, possibly to avoid the heat of the sun.

Need Spray Trunks Only

"All we have to do is spray D. D. T. solution on tree trunks in areas where airplanes cannot be used to advantage," said Federal and State officials in charge of the joint fight to control the pest in this State.

"When the worm comes in contact with the spray residue it is in immediate distress and dies soon afterwards," they concluded. Tree trunks are sprayed by ground crews with knapsack sprayers. It was explained that if control work were to be stopped the insect in a few years would completely destroy various types of trees over many thousands of square miles.

The Secretary's inspection party started at sunrise to watch two airplanes scatter insect death over large woodland areas. Young worms started dropping from trees a few minutes after the plane passed and were dead within 15 to 20 minutes. The group visited several sections sprayed two and three weeks ago and were astounded with the perfect control obtained. On a 20-acre isolated woodlot in Lackawanna County, treated experimentally with D. D. T. by plane a year ago, no moths, egg clusters or caterpillars were found this year, indicating complete destruction of the pest with one application at the rate of 5 pounds per acre. Experiments this year show control with as low as one pound of D. D. T. per acre.

Included in the group were: W. G. Howard, New York Director of Lands and Forests; Superintendent William Foss, New York Department of Conservation; James A. Kell, Pennsylvania Secretary of Forests and Waters; Ralph A. Sheals, chief of gypsy moth control and P. N. Annand, chief of entomology and plant quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture; J. M. Corliss, in charge of gypsy moth control in Pennsylvania for the U. S. Department, and Dr. T. L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who is in charge of the State's activities in control work.

New York State has 6,000 square miles of moth infested territory, heaviest along the eastern edge. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont have fought the insect for years. Last year more than 250,000 acres of trees were completely defoliated by the pest in the New England States alone.

BACKYARD FLOCKS

INCREASING scarcity of red meat, poultry and eggs is tempting many families to raise backyard poultry flocks in Pennsylvania. Receipt of a growing number of inquiries has prompted a word of caution on the hazards of financial losses to the inexperienced, from E. J. Lawless, Jr., Bureau of Markets.

"Such ventures may well cost the amateur poultry producer double the price he would ordinarily pay for his chickens and eggs," Mr. Lawless declared. "The diseases and ailments of chickens are many and varied. With heavy birds worth $3 to $4 each, the loss of only one from a flock of half a dozen greatly increases the cost of the others.

"Improper housing, irregular and inadequate feeding and attention on the part of inexperienced chicken growers are the most frequent causes for failure. Under such conditions the birds become unthrifty, egg production is low, and disease strikes readily. On the other hand, those who have had successful past experience might make out if they can get the birds."

Mr. Lawless recalled widespread failures in backyard flocks in the first two years of the war period when thousands of people, attempting to supplement food supplies, were forced to give up due to inexperience and the scarcity and high cost of feed.

The Department reported many baby chick hatcheries in the State operating at capacity. Some are unable to fill a considerable valume of orders from farmers and commercial poultrymen. Others are unable to get enough hatching eggs. Demands for chicks cannot be met even though April production of Pennsylvania commercial hatcheries exceeded that of April 1944 by nearly 5 million.

JAP BEETLE QUARANTINE MADE EFFECTIVE JUNE 21

SECRETARY Horst has set Thursday, June 21 as the effective date for the 1945 Japanese beetle quarantine in the southeastern section of the State, or what is known as the "heavily infested area."

The quarantine means that restrictions will be applied to the movement of fruit, vegetable and cut flower shipments in practically all that portion of the State which lies south and east of Harrisburg. These restrictions will remain in effect until some time in September or October.

The heavily infested quarantine area, effective April 1, was increased by the addition of 41 townships in the counties of Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lehigh and York. Last year the area was increased by only one borough in Berks County.

State or Federal inspectors' permits will be required on and after June 21 for shipment from the quarantined area of all unprocessed, fresh, cut flowers when moved in bulk direct from the field or greenhouse where grown, or from a distributor. Also, restrictions apply to fresh fruits and vegetables of all kinds when shipped outside the area by refrigerator car or motor truck only.

Meanwhile, year-round restrictions are in force in practically all other territory in the State which is classified as "generally infested" with Jap beetles. Restrictions do not apply to fruit and vegetables, but are effective in the movement of earth, compost, soil, and nursery stock. Only a few townships in Erie and neighboring northwestern Pennsylvania counties are still free from the beetles.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, June 21, 1945 | No. 25

New State Soil Conservation Commission Organized Under Act of 1945 Legislature

EARLY action to put into operation Pennsylvania's new soil conservation law has been assured by Secretary Horst, who is chairman of the newly appointed State Soil Conservation Commission. Organization of the commission was made possible with the appointment by Governor Edward Martin on June 8 of three farmer members, as required by an act of the 1945 General Assembly. First meeting of the group was scheduled for June 29.

As provided by the act, the Commission membership, in addition to Secretary Horst, includes James A. Kell, Secretary of Forests and Waters; Dr. S. W. Fletcher, dean of the school of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College, and three farmers appointed by the Governor from six nominees submitted by the State Council of Farm Organizations, composed of delegates from approximately 35 state-wide agriculture associations. Farmer members of the Commission are:

Frank W. Gorham, Wysox, Bradford County, member of the executive committee of the State Council of Farm Organizations; H. E. Roper, Kirkwood, Lancaster County, president of the State Soil Conservation Association; and E. M. Shaulis, Hollsopple, Somerset County, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Federation.

The new act provides for the voluntary establishment of County Soil Conservation Districts where boards of county commissioners pass a resolution to that effect as a result of desire expressed by farm land owners of the county. Such districts will operate under a County Soil Conservation Board of five, including one member of the board of county commissioners. The other four are chosen by the county commissioners from at least eight farmers nominated by delegates appointed for the purpose by agricultural organizations of the county. This county board elects its own chairman.

No Compulsory Features

Directed toward conservation of soil and soil resources through control and prevention of soil erosion, the new act has no compulsory features whatever. It repeals the act of 1937 which farmers generally have misunderstood, many declaring it too cumbersome and not workable. However, Secretary Horst pointed out that all existing soil conservation districts will continue under the old law until reorganization can be completed under the Act of 1945. Present districts are located in parts of York, Lancaster, Franklin, Northumberland, and Indiana Counties, and all of Clarion County.

The Secretary said the County Commissioners and farm organizations will be supplied with information on the new act in the near future.

"This legislation represents one of the most far-reaching and beneficial actions that has come to Pennsylvania agriculture in many years," he said. "It completely eliminates governmental red tape, the need for extended hearings, expensive elections, and other undesirable and compulsory features that prevented progress under the Act of 1937. At the same time it provides for cooperation and assistance of any governmental agency to local county districts in carrying out preventive and control measures in soil conservation."

ARMY WORM REPORTED IN CHESTER COUNTY

FARMERS of Pennsylvania are cautioned to be on the lookout for local invasions of the Army Worm, an insect that has made its first appearance in the State in many years.

Infestation of a field of barley near Oxford, Chester County, was reported by an inspector of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry on June 11. The worm, which belongs to the cutworm family, had completely destroyed 85 per cent of the field of barley by cutting off and eating parts of the stalk.

Originally reported to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service as a possible infestation of the European corn borer, suspicions were aroused in the Department because the corn borer has not been known to damage barley seriously. Immediate investigation disclosed presence of the Army Worm, so called because of its habit of making a mass attack on a "line front" while devouring all vegetation which it selects for feeding. It usually works on the small grain crops and the grasses. Recommended control is through the use of poisons.

The origin of the Oxford infestation has not yet been traced and it is likely that the worm can and will be confined to that community. Previously known infestations occurred some years ago in Allegheny and Warren Counties. However, quick control measures stopped spreading on those occasions.

INSECTS AND WEATHER

IF bothersome plant insect pests are more or less numerous this year, blame it on the weather. Many major pests, like Japanese beetles and European corn borers, were well protected through hiberation under last winter's heavy snows. The premature spring warmth started all plant pests off to early development, but for the most part the cold and wet weather since mid-April has slowed them down. However, the longer period of development will result in possible increases in the number of pests and the damage they may inflict on farm and fruit crops under normal summer weather conditions.

EGG CO-OPS REFLECT PRODUCTION DECLINE

FURTHER evidence of the decline in egg production in Pennsylvania this spring compared with last has been provided in marketing reports of the five cooperative egg associations in the State, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets.

During the first four months of 1944, when production for the State as a whole exceeded all previously known records, the egg cooperatives handled approximately 8,121,000 dozen of inspected and graded eggs. For the same period this year, even though all cooperatives had more farmer members contributing to their supplies, handlings dropped by 1,306,500 dozens.

The decline in egg production in the areas served by the co-ops continued into May. Records for the first two weeks of May showed that only 21,278 cases of 30 dozen each were handled compared with 32,368 cases for the same period in 1944.

Farmer egg cooperatives are located at Coatesville, Chester County; Doylestown, Bucks County; Worcester, Montgomery County; Bethlehem, Northampton County, and Butler, Butler County. Biggest month at all co-ops was March, which included Easter marketings of eggs. In that month the associations handled nearly 85,500 cases of 30 dozen each, about 2,000 fewer than in March 1944.

FREEZER SPACE FULL

PENNSYLVANIA now has approximately 1,900,000 cubic feet of cooler storage space in private and semi-private cold storage houses, and 66 per cent was occupied as of May 1. However, all available freezer space, 389,000 cubic feet, was occupied. Meat packing establishments reported 90 per cent of cooler space and 89 per cent of freezer space occupied. Apple storage houses had 100 per cent of freezer space and 24 per cent of cooler space in use on May 1. Apple holdings totaled 342,000 bushels compared with 142,000 a year earlier.

Nearly Half of the State's Corn Crop Is Cut by Machine

FARMERS of Pennsylvania, who grow nearly as much corn as all other northeastern states combined, now cut nearly half of the crop with special corn cutting machines, the Department reports through surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Not too many years ago all corn in the State was cut by hand.

From studies made in the harvesting of the 1943 corn crop from nearly 1,300,000 acres, it was learned that of the 870,000 acres cut, slightly more than 46 per cent was harvested by machine and nearly 54 per cent by hand. Nearly 30,000 acres of corn were stripped or topped for forage that year, or 2.3 per cent of the total acreage harvested.

Keystone farmers in 1943, when very little new farm machinery of any kind was available, harvested 24 per cent of their corn acreage by hand from the standing stalk. Only 8.2 per cent of the acreage was harvested with mechanical corn pickers.

Of the remaining corn acreage that was harvested for grain through cutting and shocking, approximately 41 per cent was husked or snapped by hand, 5.5 per cent was husked by machine, and about 1 per cent was fed to livestock as fodder with ears attached to the stalks.

Approximately one-fifth of the 1943 corn acreage was cut for silage, 17.1 per cent with stationary ensilage cutters and 1.8 with field harvesters. About 1 per cent of the total acreage was cut and fed as green corn or grazed in the field by hogs or cattle.

The indicated corn acreage being planted this year in Pennsylvania is approximately 1 per cent under the 1944 acreage but 82,000 more than the average for the 10-year period, 1934-43. Last year corn was harvested from 1,410,000 acres in Pennsylvania with an average yield of 38 bushels per acre. Total production was approximately 53,500,000 bushels valued at nearly $79,300,000, leading all other crops in value.

ACREAGES INCREASED FOR VEGETABLES FOR CANNING

COMMERCIAL vegetable growers of Pennsylvania are doing their share toward providing larger supplies of tomatoes, green peas and lima beans for factory canning this year, according to surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Intentions to increase 1945 acreages from 10 to 100 per cent over last year have been reported in an apparent effort to meet unprecedented civilian and army requirements. Keystone vegetable growers planned to expand their acreage for tomatoes for processing by 10 per cent, green peas by 20 per cent and lima beans by 100 per cent.

Canning tomatoes were to be grown on 37,500 acres this year compared with 34,100 acres in 1944. In the 10-year period, 1934-43, Pennsylvania acreage for canning tomatoes was only 18,700, showing an increase of approximately 100 per cent for this year's acreage over the 10-year average.

Preliminary intentions of growers of green peas for processing were to plant this year 19,800 acres or 3,300 more than last year. This acreage is more than double the 10-year average of approximately 8,500 acres.

The 3,000 acres set aside this year for the growing of lima beans for canning is exactly double the 1944 acreage and more than three times the 10-year average.

Due to adverse weather conditions, tomatoes had a rather poor start this year. Some growers found it necessary to replant several times.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, June 28, 1945 | No. 26

Penn'a Agriculture Benefited Through New Legislation

FARMERS of Pennsylvania profited greatly through measures enacted by the General Assembly in its 1945 session. Seldom in the history of the Commonwealth has so much far-reaching, effective and beneficial legislation been provided for agriculture as under the present Administration, Secretary Horst declared.

"Looking to post-war problems and conditions", he said, "adequate provision has been made for continuation and expansion of the services of the Department of Agriculture to the farmers of the State. Effective and workable plans for prevention and control of soil erosion have been set up. A firm foundation has been built for the future operation of agricultural cooperative associations. Increased opportunity for vital research in agriculture has been provided. Security and new services in rural education have been established, along with various additional advantages to rural life and living, and the protection of public health through safeguarding consumer food supplies."

A summary of legislation follows:

Soil Conservation (H. 1104, Act 217)—Control and prevention of soil erosion is now established on the basis of home rule. Through action by a Board of County Commissioners a County Soil Conservation District can be set up under a board of directors chosen from nominees named by county agricultural associations. A State Commission serves in an advisory capacity, approves county district programs, and allocates any government funds that are made available.

Farmer Cooperatives (H. 871, Act 365; H. 872, Act 360; H. 873, Act 357; and H. 874, Act 358—The status of agricultural cooperative associations with respect to State taxation and reports is now completely clarified. A State tax of 4 per cent on net income is levied only on associations having capital stock. All farmer cooperatives are now exempt from the 3 per cent State tax on corporations.

Agricultural Research (H. 148, Act 440)—Continuation of valuable research work at the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State College is assured in an appropriation of $150,000 for the 1945-47 biennium.

Licensing Meat Processing Plants (H. 522, Act 182)—Public health is further protected by adding poultry to the meats under State inspection. All slaughter houses must now be licensed and are subject to closing if provisions of the act are violated. Farmers who derive principal support from cultivating their farms are not required to obtain licenses.

Licensing Rendering Plants (H. 1209, Act 317)—Dead animals must be disposed of within time limitations and in a manner provided by this measure. All rendering or animal disposal plants must be inspected and licensed.

Increased Fee for Disposal of Unlicensed Dogs (S. 194, Act 198)—Better control of rabies may be expected through increasing from $1 to $2 the fee paid local police officers for killing and disposing of unlicensed dogs.

Use of Farm Tractors and Trailers on Highways (H. 45, Act 134)—Use of highways is provided for farmers for unregistered tractors and trailers in going by a direct route from one farm to another under their ownership or operation, and to any other farm or to any garage for repairs. Trailers, wagons, or farm equipment need not be licensed for such restricted use.

General—Agriculture will benefit greatly through substantial allocations for township roads from gas tax receipts; through greatly increased teacher salary appropriations which will tend to equalize educational opportunity for rural children by attracting and holding better teachers and reducing local real estate taxes in rural areas; through various provisions for improvement of the health of rural school children; through remedial legislation on stream pollution; through soil replacement and replanting regulations for strip mining; and through adequate appropriations for cattle indemnities, plant and animal disease and insect control, food inspection and marketing, and other established activities of the State Department of Agriculture.

All Milk Production Records Broken While May Weather Retarded Prospects for Crops

ASIDE from milk production, which is at the highest point ever known in the State, weather conditions have severely retarded 1945 food production prospects in Pennsylvania, the Department reported June 11 in the monthly survey of crop conditions by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The survey was made as of June 1.

Egg production for May was 16 per cent below the same month last year, and milk production was 10 per cent higher. Compared with April of this year, milk production in May was 15 per cent higher and the egg output was 8 per cent lower.

Field work was greatly delayed and vegetation retarded by the cool, wet May weather. Little was accomplished up to the week of the 20th. Much ground had to be replanted, and by the end of the month there was still some plowing to be done. Sunshine and warmth were urgently needed.

Pigs and poultry were scarce. Demand for baby chicks far exceeded the supply. Few soybeans had been planted. There were fewer Victory gardens than last year, most being late and none doing too well. Fruit prospects were further reduced by May frosts, with peaches coming through best.

An estimated winter wheat crop of 20,210,000 bushels will be about 100,000 more than last year. Hessian fly was reported bad in a few fields. Barley was about ready to harvest. Estimates were for a crop of 2,784,000 bushels, about 150,000 more than in 1944. Rye estimates are down from last year, but indications are for an oats crop of nearly 25,000,000 bushels, close to a million more than in 1944.

The condition of all tame hay on June 1 was 86 per cent of normal. Pastures were good in the southeast and relatively poor northwest of the mountains, condition for the State being 88 per cent. Little corn had been planted by May 20 in northern areas, where plantings of potatoes had been few. Some oats acreage planned will not be planted. Little tobacco had been set out by June 1.

All Milk Records Broken

Milk production for May was the highest ever known in Pennsylvania for any one month. All existing monthly records were smashed when the State's 940,000 milk cows turned out 540,000,000 pounds of milk.

Pennsylvania production was 15 per cent above that of April compared with an advance of 6 per cent for the Nation. National output for May also was the greatest volume on record for any one month. Pennsylvania cows averaged 574 pounds of milk. Total production was 10 per cent higher than in May of last year when the milk total was 491,000,000 pounds.

Heavy production in May made it difficult for dealers and manufacturers in some localities to handle the surplus. It is believed that the peak of milk production in Pennsylvania has been passed for this year.

Pastures Excellent

The excellent condition of pastures in most sections of the State was greatly responsible for the all-time Pennsylvania milk production record.

According to reports the condition of pastures for the State as a whole on June 1 was 88 per cent of normal compared with 93 per cent on the same date last year. Southeastern Pennsylvania pastures were reported on the date of the survey to be 93 per cent of normal. In the north central district, which embrace some of the best dairy counties of the State, pastures were reported as 92 per cent of normal and the northeastern area was rated at 90 per cent.

Egg Decline Continues

State egg production during May was 23 million below that of April.

Two major factors are involved, observers explained: a seasonal decline in production per bird, and continuing consumer demands for poultry meat. The second factor aided in shrinking the number of laying hens and pullets of laying age in Pennsylvania farms by approximately 1,000,000 or 7 per cent during the month.

Pennsylvania egg production for May was 249 million compared with 272 million in April and 298 million in May 1944, highest production ever recorded for the month.

The number of layers on farms in May was 13,870,000 or 998,000 fewer than April, and 2,814,000 below the 1944 all-time record for the month. Comparisons with May of 1944 show a drop of 17 per cent in the number of layers and 16 per cent in egg production.

Egg production in the State for the first five months of this year was 12 per cent below production for the corresponding period last year.

The egg output is dropping in spite of the fact that commercial poultrymen report the egg-feed ratio for May improved 43 per cent over the same month last year, due to decreases in prices paid for feed and higher prices received for eggs. National egg production for May was 6,300,000,000, a decrease of 6 per cent from May 1944.

Better Fruit Year Than '43

Peach, cherry and pear crops in Pennsylvania, while smaller this year than last, will be larger than in the poor fruit year of 1943 in spite of the frosts and the cold, wet spring weather.

Frosts of May 2 and 11 wiped out the remaining fruit in many orchards in the mountain counties and to the northwest and sharply reduced prospects in most of the others except in parts of the Erie belt.

As of June 1, peaches seemed to have withstood the frosts best and were coming through in a manner exceeding earlier expectations. Condition was 51 per cent of a full crop, or a production of 1,220,000 bushels. This is 666,000 bushels less than last year but 44,000 more than the short crop of 1943. It is below the 10-year average, 1934-43, by approximately 380,000.

The June drop for fruits started early. Some orchardists report it is not so severe as anticipated. Because of the drop continuing in apple orchards, no estimate of commercial production is made until the July survey. Growers reported the indicated condition of apples as only 35 per cent of a normal crop compared with 73 per cent at the same time last year.

Cherries will be less than a third of a crop this year. Production was estimated at 4,700 tons compared with 11,200 last year and 7,600 for the 10-year average. However, the crop will be 1,100 tons larger than in 1943.

Condition of pears was down to 30 per cent, production being estimated at 204,000 bushels. This compares with 464,000 bushels last year and 174,000 in 1943.

The condition of apples ranged from 12 per cent in the northeast to 42 per cent in the southeast. Peaches in the northwestern counties showed the best condition in the State, 74 per cent of normal. Only 10 per cent was reported for the northeastern counties while the adjoining east central section showed 60 per cent. The south central area, including Franklin, the leading peach county, showed 58 per cent of normal. Central counties reported 37 per cent.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, July 12, 1945 | No. 28

Corn Plants Retarded, Borer Trys Wheat

FIRST extensive damage to growing wheat by the European corn borer in Pennsylvania was reported the last week in June.

Examination of a field of wheat on a Central York County farm disclosed half-grown corn borers of the first generation working in the upper half of wheat stalks, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The tiny worms had damaged the stalks to such extent that formation of kernels had been stopped. Only empty heads were found by State inspectors who discovered the infestation while checking fields for seed certification. It was estimated that 2 to 3 per cent of the plants were infested.

Immediate steps are being taken by the Department to determine the extent of this new invasion of a vital farm crop by the corn borer. Previously the borer had confined its destruction to growing corn, potatoes and other thick-stemmed plants, even weeds.

One theory advanced by Dr. Guyton is the possibility that slow development of corn this season forced the parent moths to seek other plants on which to lay their eggs. In the York County instance the wheat field apparently was the most convenient. He said there are chances that the infestation might be localized, but cautioned farmers to be on the lookout for borers in wheat and other crops.

First generation borers had appeared by late June in corn stalks in the heavily infested southeastern Pennsylvania area. Second generation borer moths are expected to make their appearance in the area about the last week in July. Frequent spraying or dusting at that time with rotenone to kill young worms emerging from egg masses is a recommended control measure.

Soil Conservation Commission Plans Future Program

AT THE organization meeting on June 29 of the new State Soil Conservation Commission, authorized by the 1945 General Assembly, steps were taken to obtain all soil erosion study information that is available through the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College, and from it and other studies the Commission is to determine at its next meeting a plan of policy and procedure for future soil erosion control in the State.

The meeting was held in the office of Secretary Horst, who is chairman of the Commission. All members were present: Secretary of Forests and Waters James A. Kell; Dr. S. W. Fletcher, dean of the school of agriculture at Penn State, and three farmer members appointed by Governor Martin—Frank W. Gorham, Wysox, Bradford County; H. E. Roper, Kirkwood, Lancaster County, and E. M. Shaulis, Hollsopple, Somerset County.

W. S. Hagar, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, was elected Executive Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission reviewed activities of the old State Soil Conservation Board which was established under an Act of 1937, legislation that was repealed with the enactment of the new law, known as the "State Soil Conservation Law" of 1945. The Commission, in accordance with the new law, takes over responsibility for operation of the existing six soil conservation districts set up under the Act of 1937.

Since future establishment of soil conservation districts on county lines depends upon action by Boards of County Commissioners, the Commission arranged to have copies of the new act sent to each board as soon as available.

"I feel that the Commission has made a real start," Secretary Horst said. "We see a much bigger job ahead than farm soil erosion alone, for the task reaches into such important projects as protection of city water supplies and similar resources. Every member is now thoroughly familiar with the requirements of the act and we anticipate developments of benefit to all residents of the State in addition to farmers and agriculture."

The Commission set Tuesday, August 14, for its next meeting.

Spring Pig Crop Is 28 Pct. Below '44

PORK production on Pennsylvania farms continues to decline, according to the annual spring pig crop survey conducted by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service with the assistance of hundreds of rural mail carriers.

While a national decrease of 7 per cent was reported in the number of pigs saved from spring litters, in Pennsylvania there was a drop of 28 per cent compared with the spring crop of 1944. The survey included farrowings from December 1, 1944 to June 1, 1945.

The Pennsylvania 1945 spring crop totals 410,000. It is 160,000 under that for the same period of 1944 and 9,000 below the 10-year average, 1934-1943.

Department observers attribute the continuing decline to a desire on the part of farmers to avoid surplusses which came in 1943, and the fact that available feed supplies can be used more profitably in the production of milk and poultry. They recall that last summer young pigs sold for as little as fifty cents each. However, reports to the Department show that this year, pigs 6 weeks old are bringing $10 or more each.

According to reports of farmers on breeding intentions, the number of sows selected for farrowing this fall will be the same as last year when 71,000 sows farrowed 483,000 pigs. On the basis of litters averaging the same as in 1944, the total Pennsylvania pig crop for the year will be less than 900,000. This compares with 1,053,000 last year and the record crop of 1,357,000 pigs saved in 1943.

Spring litters this year averaged 6.5 pigs saved, slightly less than the 6.7 per litter in 1944.

The national spring crop of approximately 51,690,000 pigs is 30 per cent down from the record crop of 1943. Compared with last year nearly all the decrease is outside the North Central states where the decline was only 1.5 per cent.

Poultry Situation Tightens in State

A NUMBER of baby chick hatcheries in Pennsylvania have been forced to shut down due to lack of help and most others have had to curtail operations because they are unable to get sufficient eggs for hatching.

Meanwhile, even the production of nearly 9 million more chicks for the first five months of 1945 than for the same period last year has failed to meet demands of farmers and others. Bookings for hatcheries reporting were almost double the number on order June 1, 1944.

Demands are mostly for chicks of the heavier breeds, according to a hatchery survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, covering production for the month of May.

Department officials said the calls for chicks of the heavier breeds represent an effort to maintain a supply of poultry meat for civilians. Government set-asides on poultry are not in effect in Pennsylvania. A limited number of eggs clearing through the five farmer egg cooperatives must be set aside for Army purchase, however. At the present feed and labor costs and egg price ceilings, poultrymen and farmers find it more profitable to sell young chickens as broilers and fryers than to hold and feed them as replacements for egg production, officials explained.

Baby chick production in Pennsylvania commercial hatcheries from January to June of this year totaled 54,547,000 or 8,916,000 more than for the same period last year.

The demand at hatcheries for turkey poults is relatively greater than for chicks. A scarcity of turkey eggs for hatching has developed and the hatchability is not nearly so good as early in the season.

FARM OPERATOR WORK DAY AVERAGES 13 HRS.

FACED with a continued scarcity of farm labor, and realizing the need for food is now greater than at any time during the war, farm operators of Pennsylvania are averaging 13 hours a day at their food production task, the Department reported following a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Department officials declare this all-over average indicates that many farm operators are putting in 15 or 16 and even more hours per day to meet the emergency. The survey, made as of June 1, also reveals that hired workers on Pennsylvania farms are working an average of 10½ hours a day, indicating few 8-hour days in the business of farming.

PEAS FOR PROCESSING AT ALL-TIME RECORD

AN increase of approximately 24 per cent in the number of acres planted in Pennsylvania this season for the growing of green peas for canning and freezing is reported by the Department. It means 4,600 more tons of Pennsylvania peas will be processed this year than last for the nation's food supply.

However, compared with last year, the acreage for sweet corn has dropped 11 per cent and that for snap beans is down 5 per cent, according to recent surveys of vegetables planted for processing, made by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Adverse weather and scarcity of labor for harvesting are factors influencing growers to reduce corn and bean acreages, observers say.

Pennsylvania's canning pea crop was in such good condition on June 15 that an average yield of one ton of shelled peas per acre was indicated. Production from 19,800 acres will set an all-time record of that many tons. In 1944 production from 16,400 acres was 15,170 tons, when the average yield per acre was 1,850 pounds. The 1945 ton-per acre yield is the highest for any eastern state.

The 1945 plantings of sweet corn for processing are reported at 13,500 acres, or 89 per cent of the 1944 acreage which totaled 15,200, and well above the average of 11,000 for the 10-year period, 1934-1943.

Bantam and other yellow varieties are by far the most popular sweet corns for processing in Pennsylvania, being grown on 9,580 acres. Evergreen and Narrow Grain lead the white varieties with 3,780 acres. Country Gentleman is planted on 140 acres.

Preliminary estimates show the Pennsylvania acreage of snap beans for processing at 6,300, or 300 acres less than 1944, but more than double the 1934-43 average of approximately 3,000 acres.

Hot, humid weather of mid-June so quickly matured green peas for canning and freezing that processing plants in southern and eastern Pennsylvania were required to swing into night shifts with extra workers to handle the crop. Some plants were operating 24 hours a day and all available workers, including prisoners of war, were being recruited where the emergency was greatest according to D. M. James, supervising inspector in the Department's Bureau of Markets. Thirty State inspectors graded all deliveries.

PA 1.74/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, July 19, 1945 | No. 29

Should Not Use DDT Until More Is Known About It

AN INCREASING number of requests from individuals regarding the use and availability of DDT, the powerful new insecticide, recently prompted Secretary Horst to caution that DDT is a poison and should not be used on fruits, vegetables or any food products until scientists complete official experiments through which efforts are being made to determine how it should be applied in the control of insect pests.

Inquiries to the Department are of such character that it is believed some farmers and gardeners have somehow obtained small quantities of DDT, the Secretary explained. Highly valuable to the armed forces as a means for controlling malaria and typhus by eliminating insect carriers, the government has commandeered all DDT that has been manufactured since the start of the war. Only limited quantities have been released for experimental uses, and none has been made available for sale to private citizens.

"It is my understanding that no DDT will be available for home or farm or garden use until present experiments show exactly how and in what strength it may be safely applied," the Secretary said. "Every possible test is being made. It is a powerful poison and must be used intelligently. It cannot be swallowed nor should oily solutions of DDT be permitted to come into contact with the skin. I have no doubt that eventually a safe way will be found to use the material on fruit trees, but until we know how much and when to apply, none should think of using it on any food crops."

The State Department, through its Bureau of Plant Industry, is cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in its second year of experiments with DDT in the Luzerne-Lackawanna gypsy moth quarantine area. Elimination of the pest was obtained in a test area last year using 5 pounds per acre. This year, through airplane spraying of nearly 3,000 acres of forest land, it was found that only one pound per acre gives 100 per cent control.

Tests are being conducted on the effects of varying amounts of DDT on other insects in the gypsy moth area. The effect on beneficial insects is being watched with special interest. Results will not be known for several months.

RECORDS BROKEN

MORE records were broken in State inspection and certification of Pennsylvania fruits and vegetables for processing in 1944 than in any previous year, according to a report by D. M. James, supervising inspector, Bureau of Markets.

Four of the principal commodities inspected—apples, cherries, peas and tomatoes—made new high records and the total of all crops, 382,855,000 pounds, was 31 million greater than the total for any other year.

"This large increase indicates Pennsylvania is advancing in the production of crops for canning and freezing, both in acreage grown and in yields per acre," Mr. James declared. "It also shows that quality production is being stressed in addition to larger quantities, and that growers prefer to sell on the basis of quality under official inspection. They realize that premium quality brings the extra cash return it deserves."

In commenting on 1945 prospects, Mr. James stated that although large fruit crops for processing are not promising, vegetable acreages have increased sharply, indicating that new records may be made this season in the processing of such crops as peas, tomatoes and lima beans.

Lauds Effort of Youth to Reduce Farm Accidents Through County-wide Survey

WHAT is said to be the first county-wide survey of farm and farm home accidents in Pennsylvania, made by Lancaster County farm boys and girls, has won commendation from Secretary Horst.

Many lives, doctor bills and time lost from work through accidents would be saved on Pennsylvania farms if the youth of other counties were organized to conduct similar surveys, the Secretary declared. He suggested National Farm Safety Week, July 22 to 28, as an appropriate time to plan for farm safety campaigns on a community or county basis.

Five chapters of the Future Farmers of America, made up of boys in vocational agriculture schools, and the county 4-H Clubs participated in the Lancaster County farm and home accident survey which extended over the year ended March 1, 1945.

Among the 171 farm and farm home accidents reported by the groups there were ten deaths, one permanent injury and one arm lost. A total of 19,880 hours of work were lost and medical care costs totaled $4,013.50.

Objectives of the 12-month study were to learn when most accidents occur, to study the cause of accidents, and to promote farm and home safety programs for all farm workers. Factors influencing the survey included the fact that more persons are engaged in agriculture in the county than in any other occupation, and that safety rules usually are not enforced on the farm as they are in organized industry.

Farm machinery accidents led with a total of 60 for the year, 36 from tractors and 24 from other types of farm machinery. There was one death from a tractor accident, one death and an arm lost in corn pickers. Animals accounted for injuries in 13 instances, including two fatalities from horses, one death and one permanent disability from bulls.

There were 35 falls reported, including two fatalities in tobacco sheds. Tools accounted for 18 accidents and 17 were injured from falling objects. Five injuries, including one fatality from lockjaw were from stepping on objects. There were 23 miscellaneous accidents reported, including two deaths from gasoline burns and one from a truck accident.

The Lancaster survey was inspired by the County Farm Safety Committee and had the cooperation of most county-wide agricultural organizations. It was in charge of a committee composed of Wayne B. Rentschler, representing vocational agriculture; M. M. Smith, representing the agricultural extension service of the Pennsylvania State College, and Amos Miller, representing rural youth.

Slaughter Licenses Due Next January

RECEIPT of a number of checks in payment of newly established license fees for slaughtering establishments recently prompted the Department to advise that such licenses are not issuable until January 1, 1946.

Anxious to comply with the 1945 General Assembly amendment to the State meat hygiene law, some farmers engaged in commercial slaughtering of meat animals, and several large slaughtering establishments have sent checks in varying amounts to cover the $10 per year license fee, or have requested application forms.

According to the new act, farmers who derive their support mainly from the cultivation of their farms are not required to obtain a State slaughtering license. Application forms will be available from the Bureau of Animal Industry prior to January 1. All slaughtering establishments must be inspected by Bureau agents as to conditions of sanitation before the license can be issued.

Poultry dressing plants will be subject to State inspection and licensing and must have licenses by January 1. Owners are required to maintain their premises in accordance with sanitation provisions of the Act of 1915 and its amendments.

All rendering or dead animal disposal plants in Pennsylvania are now required to obtain State licenses in accordance with a "dead animal" act of the 1945 Legislature. This act became effective June 1, and application forms, delayed on account of printing, should be in the hands of operators of such plants before the end of July.

"The purpose of these legislative measures," officials said, "is to enable the Department to maintain closer supervision of sanitary conditions in slaughtering and disposal plants. Through them we can give the public better assurance that Pennsylvania-produced meat and meat products are wholesome at all times."

Penalties for conviction following violation of each act, on the first and second offense, is revocation of license, closing of the plant, $50 to $100 fine and costs of prosecution or imprisonment for 30 days, and for a third or subsequent conviction, $500 to $1,000 and costs or imprisonment for 1 year, or both, and cancellation of the license.

June Farm Prices Near Record Level

DUE to seasonal increases, the index of prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania for principal agricultural products advanced 7 points during the month ended June 15, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

At 215 per cent of the 5-year 1909-1914 average, Pennsylvania farm product prices reached the highest level since July 1920 when the index was 221. In June 1944 the index was reported at 190 per cent of the 1909-14 average. Highest of record was an index of 231 in June 1920.

The June 1945 index of prices farmers pay for goods and services remained at 173 per cent of the 1909-14 average, the same as for May, but the purchasing power of the farmers' dollar advanced 4 cents during the month, having a value of $1.24 on the basis of the 1909-14 dollar being worth 100 cents. This was an advance of 12 cents over June 15, 1944.

During the 4-week period crops advanced 16 points and livestock and livestock products 4 points. Oats and hay were the only crops that declined in price, but advances in potatoes and apples accounted for most of the advance in the crop index.

Lambs declined while hogs showed no change. Beef cattle, veal and sheep advanced. Summary:

	June 15 1944	May 15 1945	June 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.64	$ 1.63	$ 1.63
Corn, Bu.	1.44	1.36	1.36
Oats, Bu.	.96	.83	.81
Barley, Bu.	1.31	1.17	1.18
Rye, Bu.	1.22	1.22	1.24
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.42	1.05	1.09
Soybeans, Bu.	2.00	2.20	2.20
Potatoes, Bu.	1.30	1.95	2.20
Hay, loose, Ton	17.10	20.40	19.70
Apples, Bu.	3.30	2.55	2.65
Hogs, Cwt.	13.00	14.90	14.90
Beef cattle, Cwt.	12.90	14.40	14.60
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.60	16.50	16.40
Sheep, Cwt.	5.50	7.00	7.10
Lambs, Cwt.	13.70	15.00	14.70
Milk cows, Head	153.00	156.00	156.00
Horses, Head	135.00	120.00	120.00
Mules, Head	144.00	138.00	137.00
Chickens, Lb.	.269	.327	.334
Turkeys, Lb.	.37	.42	.41
Milk, whlse., Cwt.	3.40	3.40	3.40
Milk, retail, Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter, Lb.	.48	.48	.48
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.285	.381	.422
Wool, Lb.	.47	.43	.44

PA1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, July 26, 1945 | No. 30

All '45 Grain Crops to be Larger Than '44; Fruits Decline as June Milk Record is Set

IN SPITE of an unusually early spring, followed by weeks of freezing weather which greatly reduced fruit prospects, farmers of Pennsylvania report that, with the exception of rye, they expect all 1945 grain and hay crops not only will exceed last year's harvestings but will be greater than averages for the 10-year period, 1934-1943. The State corn crop this year will be of generous proportions, but the national crop will be 500,000,000 bushels less than the 1944 harvest.

According to a July 1 survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, grain and hay crop prospects improved in tonnage during June but the total production of fruit declined. For haying, the weather was the worst in years. Considering grain feed, the Pennsylvania farmer was in a much better position than a year ago. The outlook for the corn crop the first of June was discouraging. Improvements during the month gave indications that the crop would total 54,720,000 bushels, or 1,140,000 more than in 1944. An average yield of 40 bushels per acre will more than overcome a drop of 3 per cent in acreage to 1,368,000, which is 45,000 more than the 10-year average, 1934-43.

Winter wheat improved during June and prospects are for a crop of 21,398,000 bushels, 1,188,000 more than in 1944. In southeastern counties excellent yields of barley were reported and indications are for a crop 2,945,000 bushels. Oats harvest will be drawn out longer than usual and much of the acreage intended for this crop will go into buckwheat due to adverse weather conditions at planting time. Oats production is indicated at slightly more than 26 million bushels.

Condition of the potato crop varies greatly and prospects are not up to average. Planting had not been completed by July 1 in the northwestern area. The crop as a whole is late and many plantings are in danger of frost before harvest. Production is indicated at 17,825,000 bushels, which is 1,315,000 under 1944 production. Acreage is down 6 per cent, totaling 155,000.

Due to adverse weather only four-fifths of the Lancaster tobacco crop had been planted by July 1. The acreage intended for planting this year was 6 per cent more than in 1944.

Alfalfa and clover yields are the best in recent years in the southeast, but quality of much has been reduced by rains after mowing. Hay production is estimated at 3,299,000 tons, or 83,000 more than last year. Pastures are providing a high percentage of roughage. Condition on July 1 was 90 per cent of normal.

Stocks of grain on Pennsylvania farms July 1 were: corn, 10,196,000 bushels compared with 7,004,000 on July 1, 1944 and the 1934-43 average of 8,806,000 bushels; oats, July 1, 1945, 4,065,000 bushels compared with 1,934,000 a year earlier and the average of 4,044,000; old crop wheat, 1,724,000 bushels compared with 1,142,000 on July 1, 1944 and the average of 1,575,000.

New June Milk Record

Dairy farmers of Pennsylvania, as their share in observance of June Dairy Month, established a new State milk production record of 510 million pounds for the month.

June milk production was 6 per cent above that for June of last year, but it was 6 per cent below the total for May, indicating that the peak of 1945 production in the State was reached in May.

Production per cow on July 1 in herds kept by crop correspondents was 1.2 pounds less than on June 1 but 2.1 pounds above July 1 a year ago. The rate of grain fed per cow was the highest of any July 1 on record.

Nationally, milk production was maintained at record breaking levels as it climbed to a seasonal peak in June and then turned downward. A record rate of milk production is in prospect for 1945. Production for the first six months of 1945 was almost 2½ billion pounds more than last year's record production for the same period.

Even though some decline in national income takes place, demand for dairy products is expected to continue through 1945 and early 1946. Accordingly, the report states, prices received by farmers for the remainder of 1945 and the first part of 1946 will be nearly the same as in 1944.

Egg Shortage Revealed

Pennsylvania's egg shortage was revealed in cold figures by the Federal-State survey.

Egg production for June was 210 million, a drop of 39 million from May and 36 million under production for June 1944, when an all-time record was established for that month.

Hens and pullets of laying age on Pennsylvania farms during June was 7 per cent less than the number during May and 16 per cent less than June a year ago.

During May the number of layers totaled 13,870,000. June figures show a shrinkage of 936,000 layers, and a drop of 2,426,000 from June of 1944.

The number of eggs per layer for June of this year was 11 per cent less than in May but it was 2 per cent higher than during June of 1944.

Total eggs for the first six months of 1945 amounted to 1,461,000,000, a decline of 12 per cent from production for the same period in 1944.

The egg-feed ratio this June was 10 points more favorable than that of May and 43 points above that of June 1944. Commercial poultrymen report that it now takes the value of 98 eggs to purchase 100 pounds of feed whereas a year ago it required the value of 132 eggs to make such a purchase.

National egg production for June showed a 3 per cent drop from June of 1944. The number of layers showed a 7 per cent drop.

Peaches Lead Fruits

Peaches still have the edge on all Pennsylvania fruits with respect to production prospects, but commercial apples will be only 28 per cent of a normal crop.

Early peaches had started to ripen by July 1 and picking was expected to start before the end of the month. Frosts at blossoming time were so severe in many areas that condition July 1 was only 50 per cent of normal. Indications then were for a crop of 1,222,000 bushels compared with 1,886,000 harvested last year and 1,601,000 for the 10-year average, 1934 to 1943.

The survey gave the first estimate for the 1945 commercial apple crop which is indicated at 3,900,000 bushels or 5,200,000 less than the large 1944 crop. It will be less than half the 10-year average of 8,684,000 bushels.

On July 1 the condition of pears was 23 per cent of normal, indicating a production of only 192,000 bushels compared with 464,000 last year and the average of 513,000.

Cherries showed a slight drop from condition on June 1 and at 30 per cent of a full crop production is indicated at 4,500 tons compared with 11,200 in 1944 and the average of 7,600 tons.

Grape production is estimated to be 48 per cent less than in 1944. Production of 10,200 tons compares with 19,500 in 1944 and 17,590 tons average, 1934-1943.

Only 2.6 per cent of nearly 33,500 cattle tested for Bang disease in Pennsylvania during the month of June were found to be infected, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports. Out of 2,815 herds tested, presence of the disease was noted in 366 or 13 per cent. The number of infected cattle totaled 933.

Supply of Poultry Meat Depends Upon Hatchery Output

PROVIDED the hatching of baby chicks continues at increasing rates experienced in recent months, the poultry meat situation will soon be under control and civilians may expect larger supplies, E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets, said recently in a talk before the Darby-Lansdowne Rotary Club at Lansdowne.

Mr. Lawless expressed this as his personal opinion, explaining that it is difficult to know what the immediate future will bring "because demands are unknown and the situation as it relates to other food products is not clearly defined."

"Should egg priorities be reduced and prices to producers made such as to provide incentive to produce more," he said, "the egg situation should clear up partially, making more eggs available to civilians. All in all, it does not look bright, and in spite of the fact that it may sound rather ridiculous, the consumer should stick to a demand for quality eggs and poultry."

The marketing specialist reviewed reasons for egg and poultry scarcities, declaring that desires of the public are for 15 per cent more eggs this year than last when actual production of the first six months in Pennsylvania has been 12 per cent less.

Greater local consumption keeps a normal supply of eggs from going to metropolitan markets, and scarcity of meat and poultry has forced people to eat more eggs, resulting in greater scarcity, he explained. Increased demands have brought unusual methods of distribution, causing reductions in flock numbers and in some instances have removed flocks entirely, he added.

"The demand for poultry meat is greater than ever before and this pulls heavily on eggs for hatching purposes," he continued. "Requirements of the Armed Forces come first, amounting to 10 million pounds weekly and this, with an effort to build up a reserve of 110 million pounds, removes the bulk of the poultry from specialized producing or 'freeze' areas."

NURSERY INSPECTIONS

EXAMINATION of nursery stock by Department inspectors was started July 1 for the season ending September 30, 1946. These plant and insect experts will check on the growing stock in the various nurseries throughout the State. Disease- and pest-free nurseries will be State-certified for protection of the grower as well as the purchaser of such nursery stock.

During the current inspection year which ends next September 30, almost 1,000 nurseries have been inspected and certified by the Bureau of Plant Industry. In addition, 172 Pennsylvania dealers in nursery stock have been certified and 287 non-resident nurseries have applied for and received certification to sell such stock in Pennsylvania.

The Forest County Fair Association advises that its annual fair will be held at Tionesta on September 13, 14 and 15. Karl W. Flowers, Tionesta, is secretary.

Increased numbers of prisoners of war will be available for agricultural work in Pennsylvania beginning the latter part of August. During May only 10 such workers were on farms of the State. Nationally, about 100,000 prisoners of war will be available for assignment during harvest seasons.

Farmer potato growers of Pennsylvania this year planned to plant 157,000 acres, 6 per cent below last year's acreage. This is 31,000 acres under the 10-year average, 1934-43.

PA 1.24/4

STATE LIBRARY
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, August 2, 1945 | No. 31

Wong Barley Tops Record Acreage in Seed Certification

INCREASING popularity of a relatively new variety of winter barley among farmers of Pennsylvania is shown in the final results of 1945 State seed certifications for barley. It is the "Wong" variety, developed at Cornell University and found to be particularly adapted to Pennsylvania conditions.

K. W. Lauer, principal plant pathologist in charge of seed certification work in the Bureau of Plant Industry, says that slightly more than 80 per cent of all barley that passed certification tests this year is Wong. It was grown on 784 of the all-time record of 970 acres certified from the 1945 crop. This compares with approximately 135 acres of Kentucky No. 1 and 51 acres of Tennessee Winter barley.

"The Wong variety is rapidly replacing the other barleys on our Pennsylvania farms," Lauer said. "It is strong in the straw and produces excellent crops on good soil. We had reports of yields running as high as 70 bushels per acre. This is an unusual yield, of course, but yields of 50 bushels per acre are very common."

Growers this year entered a record 1,502 acres for State certification compared with 846 last year. Through the growing season 533 acres had to be rejected as not meeting the State standards. No fields of the Tennessee variety were rejected.

A list of growers whose entry passed the field inspection requirements is available from the Bureau of Markets. Samples of grain from these fields must meet laboratory purity and germination tests to qualify for final State certification. Samples are now being analyzed.

LOOK FOR SLIGHT DROP IN HONEY PRODUCTION

SLIGHT decline in honey production may be expected in Pennsylvania this year compared with last, the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service found in a July 1 survey.

Nectar secretion was delayed by the cool, wet spring. Beekeepers of the State suffered a relatively high loss of colonies last winter and this spring, and the condition on July 1 was low, despite the better care given to bees in many commercial apiaries.

Cool weather restricted activities of bees, and loss from dysentery, swarming, sweating and starvation was heavy. Excellent bee weather in March tended to correct these conditions somewhat, but many bees had to be fed with sugar sirup in May and in some localities in June, unusually late. The outlook after July 1 appeared to be good.

The State survey showed that Pennsylvania on July 1 had 181,000 colonies of bees, a drop of 10,000 from last year. A total of 20 per cent of all bee colonies in the State were lost during the winter and spring of 1944-45. Of the bees on hand July 1st, 21 per cent were new spring colonies. The condition of colonies on July 1 was 84 per cent of normal compared with 94 per cent a year earlier. The condition of nectar plants was 84 per cent compared with 85 per cent at the same time in 1944.

Production of sweet cherries in Pennsylvania this year is indicated to be 800 tons compared with 2,200 tons in 1944. Sour cherries will total approximately 3,700 tons in 1945, far below the 9,000 tons produced last year.

A drop of 18 per cent in the Pennsylvania farm acreage devoted to the growing of soybeans is recorded for 1945 compared with 1944. Farmers last spring indicated they would plant 98,000 acres.

MORE EGGS

MORE eggs are in sight for consumers by late fall provided farmers and commercial poultrymen take advantage of opportunities presented through recent Army action to relieve the poultry meat supply to civilians, E. J. Lawless, Jr., poultry and egg marketing specialist in the Bureau of Markets declared in mid-July.

"The Army's action," he said, "provides three time as much poultry meat for civilians by spreading its requirements to other poultry meat producing areas. Relief is particularly noticeable in Eastern Pennsylvania due to more chickens coming from the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area, and efforts are being made to sell at ceiling prices.

"Already there is a tendency toward reduction of the drain on farm flocks in Pennsylvania. This is being accompanied by relief from the practice of over-ceiling sales. As poultry meat sales get down to legitimate levels, and as established ceiling prices for eggs advance at the rate of 1 cent per dozen per week until December, farmers and poultrymen will find that holding their birds now will mean greater financial returns for their eggs in the fall.

"In other words, October and November egg prices will be such that the producer has a very good chance of making more money than by selling his birds now at ceiling prices, and consumers will have more eggs."

NEW JUNE RECORD FAILS TO MEET CHICK DEMAND

HEAVY consumer demand for poultry meat and eggs resulted in an all-time record June production of 10,500,000 baby chicks by Pennsylvania hatcheries, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Characterized by one hatcheryman as "terrific", demand for chicks at hatcheries was said to be exceedingly strong for the heavier or meat producing breeds. Production for the month of June was 132 per cent above the 4,533,000 total turned out during the same month in 1944. The new record production was 85 per cent higher than the average for the 5-year period, 1939 to 1943.

Many thousands of additional chicks could be sold but hatcherymen are up against a scarcity of help and an increasing shortage of eggs for hatching purposes. Prices offered for hatching eggs were exceptionally high, it was said.

Compared with 1944, total hatchery production for the first six months of this year has increased 30 per cent, 65,047,000 baby chicks against 50,164,000. In total production, January through June, Pennsylvania ranks 5th among all the states. This state leads all others in the number of hatcheries, a total of 636. Production peaked at 16,250,000 in April.

LESS TOBACCO

A SERIOUS drop in cigar leaf tobacco production in Pennsylvania for 1945, totaling close to 8 million pounds less than last year, has been reported. Cool and wet weather early in the season is responsible for the decline in Pennsylvania Seedleaf and Pennsylvania Havana Seed varieties, according to a Federal-State survey.

Although Seedleaf has been planted on 35,600 acres this year, 2,000 more than in 1944, total production is estimated at 44,500,000 pounds, which is 7,916,000 less than was harvested in 1944.

Adverse weather so delayed planting in Lancaster County that it was near mid-July before farmers completed setting out their plants. Tobacco farmers expect only 1,250 pounds yield per acre. This compares with 1,560 pounds last year.

State Has 2nd High Yield in U. S. for Peas for Canning

ALTHOUGH many Pennsylvania farm crops were greatly retarded by the cool, wet spring weather, conditions were so favorable to green peas for processing that growers of the State this year achieved the second highest yield per acre in the United States.

According to information received by the Department through the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, an all-time record Pennsylvania yield of 2,500 pounds of shelled peas per acre was obtained this year. In only one other State, Utah, did growers obtain a higher record with an average of 2,750 pounds per acre under irrigation.

Much of the State's 1945 record production of 24,750 tons of shelled peas will be processed for use of the Armed Forces. This compares with 15,170 tons produced last year and the 10-year average of slightly less than 8,000 tons.

The growing of peas for canning in Pennsylvania has made a remarkable increase in recent years, Department officials declared. The 1944 acreage of 19,800 is more than twice the average of 8,370 acres harvested in the 10-year period, 1934-43. This record acreage exceeds that of last year by 3,400 acres. The increase in yield per acre also has made record strides. The 2¼-ton average for this year compares with 1,850 in 1944 and the 10-year average of 1,950.

SWEET CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 15 MILLION EARS

A PRODUCTION drop of more than 15 million ears of sweet corn for fresh market in Pennsylvania this year compared with last has been reported.

Labor shortages and adverse weather have combined to reduce acreages and the prospective supply for lovers of corn-on-the-cob. However, plantings in New York and New Jersey will provide a total crop 2 per cent larger than in 1944 for the Tri-State area.

Sweet corn production in Pennsylvania for this year is placed at 39,600,000 ears against 55,000,000 harvested last year, according to a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The acreage is 9,000 compared with 11,000 last year.

Fewer tomatoes but more cabbage and cucumbers will come from Pennsylvania commercial vegetable growing areas this year than last to supply fresh market demands. Tomatoes are estimated at 544,000 bushels compared with 558,000 in 1944. This year's acreage is placed at 3,200, or 100 more than harvested last year.

Cucumber production for the State is estimated at 143,000 bushels compared with 120,000 last year. The acreage of 650 is an increase of 50 over that harvested in 1944.

Production of late summer cabbage is indicated to be 32,300 tons compared with 22,500 harvested in 1944. The acreage is 200 less than the 4,000 utilized for this crop last year. These estimates include production for sauer kraut.

TRAP GYPSY MOTHS

IN its efforts to prevent spreading of the destructive gypsy moth into new territory surrounding the approximately 700-square mile quarantine area in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, the State Department of Agriculture, cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, early in July placed 7,009 moth traps at strategic points in 105 townships in the following northeastern counties: Wayne, Pike, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Monroe, Carbon, Northampton, Columbia and those parts of Luzerne and Lackawanna which are free from the pest.

PA1.24/4

DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, August 9, 1945 | No. 32

Farm Price Index Approaches Peak Reached in 1920

PRICES received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products continued to advance during the month ending July 15, reaching an index of 223 based on average prices as 100 for the 1909-1914 period, according to a Federal-State survey.

The index of prices received advanced 8 points between June 15 and July 15, approaching the all-time high of 231 for June 1920. Crops advanced 22 points to an index of 265, largely due to the prices received for new apples, peaches and potatoes. Except for oats and buckwheat, grain prices declined from 1 to 6 cents a bushel. Loose hay averaged $18.00 which was $1.70 per ton lower than a month previous.

Livestock and livestock products advanced 3 points to an index of 209. Higher prices for poultry, eggs and wholesale milk more than offset lower prices received for cattle, sheep and hogs.

The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar, at $1.29, considering the 1909-1914 dollar as being worth 100 cents, advanced 5 cents over June 1945 and was 13 cents higher than in July 1944. The July 1945 index of prices farmers pay for goods and services was 173, the same as for June. Comparisons follow:

	July 15 1944	June 15 1945	July 15 1945
Wheat—Bu.	$1.51	$1.63	$1.57
Corn—Bu.	1.45	1.36	1.35
Oats—Bu.	.95	.81	.81
Barley—Bu.	1.27	1.18	1.15
Rye—Bu.	1.24	1.24	1.22
Buckwheat—Bu.	1.42	1.09	1.11
Soybeans—Bu.	1.90	2.20	2.20
Potatoes—Bu.	1.75	2.20	2.40
Hay, loose—Ton	15.90	19.70	18.00
Apples—Bu.	2.30	2.65	3.15
Hogs—Cwt.	12.40	14.90	14.80
Beef cattle—Cwt.	13.20	14.60	14.30
Veal calves—Cwt.	14.10	16.40	16.40
Sheep—Cwt.	5.30	7.10	6.90
Lambs—Cwt.	13.40	14.70	14.70
Milk cows—Head	153.00	156.00	153.00
Horses—Head	130.00	120.00	112.00
Mules—Head	135.00	137.00	137.00
Chickens—Lb.	.274	.334	.343
Turkeys—Lb.	.360	.41	.42
Milk, wholesale—Cwt.	3.45	3.40	3.45
Milk, retail—Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter—Lb.	.48	.48	.48
Butterfat—Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs—Doz.	.348	.422	.456
Wool—Lb.	.45	.44	.46

DOG LAW QUARANTINES AID IN RABIES CONTROL

OF THE 431 positive cases of rabies reported to the Department during the first 6 months of this year, the largest number for any one county was 157 for Allegheny. In efforts to control spread of the disease Secretary Horst placed a 100-day quarantine on all of Allegheny County, including the City of Pittsburgh, effective May 7, and on July 30 renewed it for another 100 days beginning August 14.

Luzerne County had the second highest number of rabies cases reported to June 30, a total of 46, according to records compiled by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Lackawanna and Washington Counties were next with 39 each. Other counties and the number reported from each, between January 1 and June 30, include:

Philadelphia, 32, including one muskrat; Fayette, 20; Beaver, 17; Susquehanna, 14; Montgomery, 13; Westmoreland, 8; Mercer, 7; Warren, 6; Bucks, 5; Crawford, 5; Erie, 5; Wyoming, 5; Jefferson, 3; Bradford, 3; Lawrence, 3 and one each in Armstrong, Delaware, Forest and Greene. About 45 municipalities have placed quarantines so far this year.

The 431 rabies cases reported included 383 dogs, 15 cats, 27 cattle, 4 horses, 1 rat and 1 muskrat. By the last of July cases totaled approximately 500 compared with 472 and 655 for the first seven months of 1943 and 1944, respectively.

The number of dogs disposed of in the 6-month period totaled 14,162, approximately the same as for the same period in 1944.

Special Surveys to Determine Effects Of DDT on Forest Life in Moth Area

EFFECTS of DDT on birds, bees, fish and all native insects found in the Luzerne-Lackawanna County gypsy moth quarantine area which was sprayed this spring by airplane with the war developed insecticide, are being studied and will be made known in the near future, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The Bureau has cooperated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and other agencies in making detailed surveys on marked-off areas in the gypsy moth sprayed territory.

DDT is known to kill a greater variety of insects than any other insecticide, Dr. Guyton says, and until results of the special investigations of possible damage to useful insects are determined fully, DDT cannot be recommended for large-scale use by aircraft for control of forest pests.

Experiments of the past two years in the limited 700-square-mile Pennsylvania gypsy moth area have proved conclusively that this damaging pest can be totally destroyed with as little as one pound of DDT per acre. To observe effects on wildlife, test plots of up to one square mile each were set aside this year. Some were sprayed by plane at the rate of 5 pounds of DDT per acre, others at 1 pound per acre. Unsprayed check plots were provided.

Fish, bird and insect specialists, including a bird expert loaned by the Audubon Society, carefully examined the test areas before and after treatment. They are now compiling reports which are expected to be available within a few weeks. A headquarters laboratory was established at an old CCC Camp near Moosic, Lackawanna County.

Dr. Guyton explained that a single application of DDT under forest conditions continues to kill many insects over a long period, despite rainfall after it is applied. Large-scale use against forest pests might upset the balance of nature, he said, hence the special surveys.

Several days before the test areas were sprayed the investigators began sampling, trapping and identifying various species of insects present. The same type of examination was made in similar but unsprayed areas. Examinations of both treated and untreated areas were made 24 hours after spraying, and results compared to determine what insects and how many the DDT had killed in the treated area and the number and different species of insects still present in both the treated and untreated areas. The same process was followed for birds on 40-acre test plots, and for fish in a stream that runs through the test section.

Checking on the abundance of various species has extended through the summer. It will be continued as long as results show up. Observations will be resumed next spring to determine the ability of such insects to survive the winter in large numbers in sprayed areas.

More Chickens are Raised on Farms

YOUNG CHICKENS raised on farms in Pennsylvania in 1945 are estimated at 37,683,000, an increase of 7 per cent over last year, but short of the all-time 1943 record by approximately three and a quarter million birds, a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reveals.

The year started with a slow demand by farmers for baby chicks, but as the red meat scarcity increased, ration point-free poultry meat requirements exceeded supplies. Hatchery production for the first six months of 1945 was 30 per cent higher than for the same period in 1944. In June all hatchery records were broken for that month.

Hens and pullets of laying age on Pennsylvania farms in June were two and a half million under June 1944, but the increase in all chickens raised on farms this year indicates that more poultry meat should be available for civilian consumption in late fall and next winter, Department poultry specialists said.

Farmers are beginning to dress birds that have completed their first year of laying, and larger supplies are to be found in local markets, they add.

The number of chickens raised this year on Pennsylvania farms is 26 per cent above the average of approximately 30 million raised in the 10-year period, 1934-43. The number in 1941 was 29,718,000; in 1942 it was 31,501,000; and in 1943 the all-time record was 40,951,000.

As in Pennsylvania, the national demand for chickens during the first three months of this year was slow, but in April the demand exceeded the supply and continued to exceed the supply in May and June. Hatchings during the last half of this year, which will be mostly commercial broiler chicks, may approach the record hatch during the last half of 1943.

The limiting factor in chick production during the remainder of this year will be the smaller prospective supply of feed grains, especially corn, due to unfavorable weather.

Hatcheries continue to produce an increasing proportion of chickens raised on farms, about 89 per cent of the national supply this year.

Farmers Warned of Livestock Hijacking

FARMERS of Pennsylvania were warned recently by Secretary Horst to be on the watch for a new type of livestock hijacking that apparently is being practiced in the State as a direct result of the meat shortage.

According to reports received from farmers who have been victimized, a man with a truck arrives at a farm, posing as a livestock dealer. He gives a name and address, bargains for meat animals and poultry, promises to send a check the next day by mail, and drives off. That is the last the farmer sees of the "dealer" or the livestock.

"State laws protect the farmer in that no one is permitted to buy or sell livestock within the Commonwealth without a State livestock dealer's license," the Secretary declared. "Licenses are issued only to legitimate dealers who are investigated by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

"I therefore caution all farmers who are approached by strangers passing themselves off as livestock dealers, to request that they show a State registration card which is proof that they are duly licensed by the State to engage in the business.

"Every dealer and every salesman is supplied with a registration card when dealer licenses are issued. If they can't show a card, sell no livestock, take the license number of the car or truck, and report at once to the Bureau of Animal Industry at Harrisburg. This is a racket and we must have the cooperation of farmers to stop it."

Secretary Horst also reported that several hundred livestock dealers who were licensed last year have not renewed for 1945, and any who are found buying or selling livestock without State credentials will be prosecuted.

BETTER EGG SCORES

AT THE END of the 42nd week in the current Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest, the average number of eggs per bird continued to exceed records of the last contest sponsored in 1943-44 by the Department.

Production averaged 190.7 eggs per bird to that time in the 1944-45 contest. This compares with 181.14 eggs per bird in the last contest.

State L...
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, August 16, 1945 — No. 33

Wheat, Potatoes, Tobacco Decline as Corn, Oats Improve in Unusually Wet Period

PENNSYLVANIA wheat crop losses due to excessive rains during July were close to 1,000,000 bushels which, at the average price which prevailed July 15, was worth nearly $1,500,000, the Department announced following a state-wide general crop survey made as of August 1 by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

On July 1 a wheat crop of 21,398,000 bushels was indicated. By August 1 production was estimated at 20,446,000 bushels or a loss of 952,000 bushels, the report revealed.

Most of this reduction was credited to the southeastern section of the State which is Pennsylvania's greatest wheat production area. Rainfall in eastern Pennsylvania was the third heaviest for the month of July in 33 years, sufficient to rank precipitation for the State at 8th or 9th highest in 58 years of record.

Wet weather also brought a drop of roughly half a million bushels in potato production estimates during the month. The August 1 outlook was for a crop of 17,360,000 bushels. Tobacco production also dropped during the month by slightly more than 1 million pounds. Prospects were for a crop of 43,903,000 pounds, approximately 9 million less than last year. Hay production on August 1 was estimated at 3,299,000 tons, which is 83,000 more than in 1944.

Wheat in the southeastern counties was damaged from 40 to 90 per cent in some localities while still standing or in shocks. Rains made some of the wheat practically worthless. Much oats and some barley and rye also were damaged by heavy rains and storms. The 1945 wheat crop will be about the same as 1944, when production totaled 20,108,000 bushels.

Most encouraging in the monthly report was a greatly improved outlook for corn. The crop made rapid growth and August 1 estimates were for production of 56,088,000 bushels, an increase of 1,368,000 over estimates made a month earlier. The crop will be about 2½ million bushels higher than last year, with an average yield of 41 bushels per acre indicated.

Oats production was estimated at 26,009,000 bushels as of August 1, about 2,000,000 more than last year. Barley production will be 3,135,000 bushels, about 500,000 more than in 1944. Rye was estimated at 774,000 bushels, slightly more than last year, and the outlook for buckwheat was 2,398,000 bushels, about 500,000 less than in 1944.

Fruits Decline, Except Peaches

Peaches were the only commercial fruits produced in Pennsylvania to come through the excessively wet weather of July without loss in estimated production. In the August 1 survey the crop was still estimated at 1,222,000 bushels, the same as July 1. However, due to spring freezes, the crop is 664,000 bushels under that of 1944.

Continued drop and much cracking of apples due to persistent rains and hail storms in the eastern part of the State helped to reduce apple prospects from 3,900,000 bushels as of July 1 to 3,640,000 bushels by August 1, a loss of 260,000 bushels.

Excessive rains in some sections caused considerable brown rot in peaches but as of August 1, Elbertas, the main variety, had good prospects, the report stated. Condition of apples was estimated at 26 per cent of normal and peaches at 52 per cent. Pears were down to 22 per cent, a crop of 180,000 bushels being estimated August 1, a drop of 12,000 from July 1.

Cherries turned out to be only 26 per cent of a full crop, production being reported at 3,800 tons compared with last year's record of 11,200 tons. Grapes, showing only 29 per cent of normal, were estimated at 7,300 tons, compared with 19,500 tons harvested last year and 10,200 indicated July 1.

Vegetable Supply Short

With weather too wet in the east and too dry in the west, farmers, commercial vegetable growers and Victory gardeners of Pennsylvania by early August were desperately trying to overcome a rather serious unbalancing by nature.

Supplies of all vegetables were generally insufficient to meet demands as a result of the unusual conditions, it was said following a Federal-State Crop survey of truck crop conditions covering the latter part of July.

Temperatures for the period were normal in the east and only slightly below normal in the west. Nights were quite warm and moisture abundant except in the northwest. All vegetables made rapid development but weeds also flourished.

Precipitation in the form of almost daily showers and numerous heavy storms in the eastern areas was fully 75 per cent above normal while in the west the average was nearly 40 per cent below normal during this period.

Shortage of help, the wet weather, and lateness of planting summer crops caused supplies moving to markets to be somewhat less than at the same time a year ago, but showing a steady increase as the season advanced.

Storm and hail damage flattened a good many acres of sweet corn in some southeastern sections and weeds are heavy in most fields.

Tomatoes generally made unusual vine growth but the set was light on early crops.

NEW RECORDS ATTAINED IN VEGETABLE ACREAGES

EXPANSION attained by Pennsylvania growers of vegetables for commercial canning and freezing is shown in a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. A number of new acreage records were established this year.

Pennsylvania now leads New Jersey in the number of acres devoted to the growing of tomatoes for processing. Growers report that they have planted 38,000 acres this year, an increase of 4 per cent over 1944 and slightly more than double the average for the 10-year period, 1934-43. New Jersey this year has 36,800 acres which compares with that State's 10-year average of 35,100 acres.

Greatest progress has been made this year over last in the planting of lima beans for canning and freezing. The total acreage of 3,500 represents a 233 per cent increase over the 1,500 acres in 1944 and compares with the 10-year average of only 960 acres.

Snap beans for processing are being grown this year on 6,300 acres, an increase of 200 over last year and more than twice the 10-year average. As of July 1 a yield of 1.4 tons per acre was indicated, slightly more than last year but a little under the average. Production of 8,800 tons was indicated. This is nearly a thousand tons more than in 1944.

The second highest yield per acre in the United States for green peas for processing was achieved this year by Pennsylvania farmers and commercial vegetable growers. With an average of 2,300 pounds of shelled peas per acre, Pennsylvania growers had a total production of 22,770 tons from a record acreage of 19,800. Utah was the only State to exceed Pennsylvania in yield per acre, being credited with an average of 2,750 pounds.

The condition of the various vegetable crops for commercial processing as of July 1 was reported as follows: sweet corn 74 per cent of normal compared with 89 per cent a year earlier; tomatoes 89 per cent against 88 per cent on July 1, 1944; green lima beans 84 per cent compared with 85 a year earlier.

Penn'a Again Leads All States in Ice Cream Production

THE Keystone State in 1944 retained its position as the Nation's leader in the production of ice cream, turning out a total of 49,469,000 gallons. The information was gathered by the Department's Federal-State Crop Reporting Service in cooperation with Secretary William S. Livengood, Jr., Department of Internal Affairs.

While the total for last year was nearly 4,800,000 gallons less than the State's all-time record of 54,256,000 attained in 1942, production was ahead of 1943 by more than one million gallons. New York ranked second in ice cream production in 1944, and California third, the same positions each State held in the preceding two years. The Pennsylvania output was sufficient to supply every citizen of the State with close to five gallons each.

Production of creamery butter in Pennsylvania during 1944 was 11,704,000 pounds compared with 12,444,000 in 1943.

Cheese production, excluding full skim Cheddar and cottage, pot and bakers' cheese, declined 1,600,000 pounds, compared with 1943, but cottage, pot and bakers' cheese increased 3,100,000 pounds.

The quantities of condensed and evaporated whole milk and of condensed and evaporated skimmed milk exceeded 1943 production by 11 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. Dry whole milk declined roughly 1,200,000 pounds and dry skimmed milk for human consumption dropped almost 1,600,000 pounds compared with 1943 production.

PENNSYLVANIA LAMB CROP SHOWS FURTHER DECLINE

A REDUCTION in the Pennsylvania 1945 lamb crop compared with 1944 was reported following a recent Federal-State survey.

The total of 171,000 lambs produced in the State this year is 33,000 under the 1944 production, and considerably under the 10-year average production of 250,000 lambs, 1934-1943. Only 86 lambs per 100 ewes were saved, compared with 88 per 100 last year and 91 for the 10-year average.

The reduced lamb crop this year results directly from an almost identical reduction in breeding ewes on Pennsylvania farms. In 1944 the ewes totaled 232,000 while this year there were only 200,000 ewes one year old and over on January 1, a number that is 74,000 under the 10-year average for the State.

The national 1945 lamb crop is estimated at 28,250,000 head, about one million under the 1944 crop. Although this year's crop was smaller, as many 1945 lambs had gone to slaughter by August 1 as had 1944 lambs to the same date.

STATE INSPECTORS REPORT NEW ALL-TIME RECORDS

FOUR new all-time records for State inspections of cannery crops were established in 1944 by the Bureau of Markets, according to D. M. James, supervising inspector.

Apples, peas and lima beans handled in State inspections last year were such that they more than doubled the amounts passed by inspectors during the previous year. Apples inspected in 1944 totaled 137,034,000 pounds compared with less than 60,000,000 in 1943. Pennsylvania led all other states in apple inspections.

Pea inspections totaled 11,884,000 pounds compared with 5,555,000 pounds in the previous year. Inspections of lima beans for processing totaled 394,000 pounds compared with only 163,000 in 1943.

In total poundage, tomatoes far exceeded all other fruit and vegetable inspections. The 201,134,000 pounds was 3 million more than in 1943.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, August 23, 1945 — No. 34

Soil Conservation Commission Plans Future Operation

EARLY completion of a state-wide survey on the extent of soil erosion in Pennsylvania was recommended by the State Soil Conservation Commission at a meeting held August 14 in the office of Chairman Miles Horst, State Secretary of Agriculture. Plans for county soil conservation districts were discussed and certain operational policies formulated in accordance with the Soil Conservation Law of 1945.

The Commission received from the agricultural experiment station at the Pennsylvania State College a report on soil erosion surveys already made for 16 counties, including data on soil conservation. It was presented by Dean S. W. Fletcher of the School of Agriculture, a member of the Commission. In addition, the Commission received a report on soil erosion and land use conditions made in various parts of the State by the United States Soil Conservation Service.

Chairman Horst said the Commission desires that erosion surveys be made in remaining parts of the State as soon as possible. Various agencies will be asked to assist.

Requests for information relative to the formation of a County Soil Conservation District under the new soil conservation law passed by the 1945 General Assembly were considered.

It was the judgment of the Commission that "the most effective procedure for acquainting the people in a county with the steps necessary to effect the organization of a Soil Conservation District is for the local board of county commissioners to call a public meeting at which a representative of the State Commission will be present to explain the law and answer questions."

The Commission also established a policy for the recognition of county-wide agricultural organizations for the purpose of the selection by such organizations of representatives to make nominations of members to be chosen by county commissioners to serve on the County Soil Conservation District Board, when established by action of County Commissioners.

October 11 was set by the Commission for its next meeting in Harrisburg. Members attending the August meeting in addition to Secretary Horst and Dean Fletcher were: Frank W. Gorham, of Wysox, Bradford County; E. M. Shaulis, of Hollsopple, Somerset County; H. E. Roper, Kirkwood, Lancaster County; and W. S. Hager, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Executive Secretary of the Commission.

COUNTY FAIRS THIS YEAR SET ATTENDANCE RECORDS

REPORTS from county and community fairs held in Pennsylvania during August indicate that all wartime fair attendance records will be broken this year.

The 1945 fair season started when Governor Edward Martin addressed opening exercises at the Clearfield County Fair July 30. Twenty fairs were scheduled in August, and some reported all-time attendance records.

Thirty-two of the 63 county and community fairs listed for Pennsylvania this season come in September, biggest month for these annual events featuring agricultural exhibits for which the State provides a part of the money for premium awards. With gasoline unrationed the attendance of farm people at fairs is expected to show a decided increase.

Tame hay is being grown this year on more than 2,200,000 acres of Pennsylvania farm land, slightly less than in 1944.

NO FARM SHOW IN '46

THERE can be no State Farm Show of the pre-war exhibit type in 1946, Secretary Horst announced following the August 14 surrender of Japan.

"Although the war is over the 10-acre building is still under lease to the U. S. Army, and we have had no intimation as to when they plan to vacate," he declared.

"Even though the building were to be turned back to the State Farm Show Commission tomorrow there could be no exhibits arranged for a January show. Army alterations and installations of equipment have been such that it will take from 6 months to a year to put the property back into its former state. Little more than 4 months now remain until Farm Show time.

"Furthermore, farmers have been so busy raising food for war they have not had opportunity to center on preparation of crops and produce and animals for State show exhibit. They could not get ready in time. Farm machinery has not come back into production and little would be available in household and other commercial exhibits by next January.

"However, if travel restrictions are removed for conventions, the Commission undoubtedly again will sponsor annual meetings in Harrisburg of possibly a score of agricultural organizations during the week usually set aside for the Farm Show. The last exhibit show was held in the Farm Show Building in 1942, and only meetings of farm associations have been held during Farm Show Week in Harrisburg since then."

Million Dollar Potato Loss During July

EXCESSIVE rains of July in eastern counties reduced Pennsylvania late crop potato production by approximately 465,000 bushels. Late blight threatened to reduce prospects still further during August.

At prices farmers then were receiving for potatoes, the July rain loss would exceed $1,000,000, Secretary Horst estimated. However, he added that late potatoes will not be dug and sold until fall, and at prices received last October 15 the loss would be between $800,000 and $900,000.

While prospects dropped in Pennsylvania, the national outlook improved to the extent of 12 million bushels during July. The national crop on August 1 was estimated at over 420 million bushels, 40 million more than last year, exceeded only by 1928 and 1943 productions.

According to Federal-State survey figures, the Pennsylvania potato crop on August 1 was estimated at 17,360,000 bushels compared with 19,140,000 last year and the average of 22,318,000 from 1934 to 1943. The July rains cut the average yield expected from 115 bushels to 112 per acre. The long period of wet weather prevented spraying and cultivating. In the southeast blight was prevalent but spotty. Rotting was reported on low spots and a few fields were drowned. However, growers digging Cobblers out of the mud were reporting averages of 300 bushels per acre in some fields.

SHORT GRAPE CROP

GRAPE production this year in Pennsylvania will be little more than one-third of last year's heavy crop, a Federal-State report declares. However, the State is expected to retain its 1944 rank as fifth among all the states.

Harvesting will not start until October. The outlook on August 1 was for production of only 7,300 tons, or 12,200 less than in 1944. The 1945 crop will be considerably less than half average production of 17,590 tons for the 10-year period, 1934-1943.

New Milk Record In Sight as Egg Output Declines

WITH milk production since January 1 on Pennsylvania farms running approximately 5 per cent ahead of the record year 1942, an entirely new high production record is in prospect for 1945, Secretary Horst announced. The 1942 record was 5,022,000,000 pounds or approximately 2,336,000,000 quarts.

Basis of the statement was an August 1 survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service which said that during July Pennsylvania milk production totaled 486,000,000 pounds. This amount represents an all-time record production for the month of July and is 3 per cent above July 1944. A 5 per cent drop in milk production for July, compared with the month of June 1945, was seasonal.

On August 1 the percentage of cows being milked in herds kept by crop correspondents had reached a record high. Frequent rains in July made pastures in eastern Pennsylvania rather soft and some were becoming badly trampled late in the month. Much hay was spoiled while lying in the fields due to excessive rainfall.

Milk production held up well except in the west and northwest sections where hot weather, flies, and relatively few pastures contributed to the decline. Pastures generally were good to excellent. National milk production for July continued at record levels and was 7 per cent above the corresponding month a year earlier. Production is likely to continue at a record level during the rest of 1945 unless serious deterioration in pasture condition takes place.

Egg Production Drops

Consumer demand for poultry meat continued heavy during July and rather seriously reduced egg production on Pennsylvania farms during the month, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Eggs produced during the month totaled only 184,000,000 compared with 219,000,000 for the same month in 1944.

By the end of July the seasonal decline in the number of hens and pullets on Pennsylvania farms since January 1 amounted to 34 per cent, greater than for any recent year. The number of layers in July was placed at 12,000,000 which was 7 per cent or 934,000 less than for June. In July 1944 layers totaled 14,556,000.

Egg production started seasonally downward in April, and since March has declined 35 per cent. There was a 12 per cent drop in July from June production.

Compared with July a year ago, commercial poultrymen were receiving this July 23 per cent more for eggs and paying 4 per cent less per one hundred pounds of feed. July egg prices averaged 47.5 cents per dozen while chickens brought an average of 31.9 cents per pound liveweight.

The records show that whereas a year ago it took the value of 107 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed, this July it required the value of 83 eggs to make a similar purchase.

National demand for eggs will remain strong well into 1946, and will continue to exceed supplies at least until egg production increases seasonally beginning next December. Demand for poultry continued extremely broad and only a portion of the trade could be satisfied. However, there was gradual improvement in the supply situation during the month owing to the seasonal increases in marketing and to government authorization for processing plants to release 30 per cent of their production to civilians.

More than a million turkeys were sold in 1944 by Pennsylvania farmers and poultrymen. They were valued at over $8,000,000.

Pennsylvania sheep growers last year sold more than two and a half million pounds of wool worth $1,099,000.

PA 1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, August 30, 1945 | No. 35

Asks Farm Workers in War Industries Return to Soil

FORMER farm owners and workers released by war industries since the close of the war with Japan were urged by Secretary Horst to give farmers a lift during the remainder of the harvest season.

"In many areas of Pennsylvania the farmers, fruit and vegetable growers, poultrymen and other food producers are faced with a more critical labor shortage than at any time during the war," he declared in an initial post-war statement issued August 17. "In some sections valuable crops may go unharvested unless help comes soon, particularly where tomatoes for canning plants are expected to ripen this year over an unusually short period.

"The end of the war brings no let-down for farmers," he asserted. "They must and will go on producing food, but they need help in harvesting. Hundreds of farm boys, home from overseas on furlough, are pitching in. Thousands of veterans to be discharged in the coming months will return to their home farms, many of them to take over operation of the farm as a permanent proposition.

"At the close of the last war many rural people who had gone into war plants remained in the cities. Many will elect to do the same now. But for the remainder of the 1945 harvest season I strongly urge released industrial workers with farm training to return to the soil even if it is only for a short time.

"The farms need full time workers. Farm wages are the highest in history. Each county has a farm placement service operating through the office of the county farm agent. There are plenty of farm jobs to be had."

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT EGGS ARE EXPLODED

NEARLY a dozen popular misconceptions about eggs were exploded recently by E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division of the Department Bureau of Markets.

Due to scarcity of meats and poultry, civilians could consume 15 per cent more eggs this year than last, but production is 7 per cent less, he declared, and suggested that consumers could get more enjoyment from precious eggs if they discarded some ancient misconceptions, listing the following:

Dark yolks are not evidence of age.

There is no difference between brown- and white-shelled eggs, chemically and nutritionally the same when produced under similar conditions of feeding and management.

Under modern methods, storage eggs are good eggs if of high quality when stored and carefully candled when taken out.

An egg does not have to be infertile and less than 24 hours old to be desirable.

Not all eggs are classified as fresh when laid, since some birds may have a weakness to produce poor quality consistently.

Eggs definitely do need refrigeration, in both store and home; the housewife should remove only those eggs she wishes to use and not expose the entire container while mixing or baking.

Successful whipping of eggs is more a matter of room temperature than freshness.

Home preservation does not always take care of periods of scarcity; all may spoil.

Chickens do not always lay the same size of eggs; they work up from peewees to large and in warm weather drop back to almost medium.

If the contents of an egg can be heard when shaken near the ear it is not necessarily an indication of poor quality; candling is the only test for quality.

Chickens do not lay an egg each day; farm birds average 150 per year. The world's record is 356 eggs in 365 days.

Penn'a Farm Mortgages Drop 8 Per Cent During War Period, Now at $120,936,000

A SLOW but steady shrinkage in the total amount of farm mortgages is reported for Pennsylvania since 1940. The greater part of an 8 per cent reduction has taken place since Pearl Harbor and has been accompanied by a marked shift in the distribution of outstanding mortgage loans among the major lender groups.

Individuals, through personal or private loans, and commercial banks now hold 81 per cent, or $98,264,000 of the grand total of $120,936,000 in Pennsylvania farm mortgages, according to surveys through the Pennsylvania Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Federal Land Banks hold approximately $14,500,000; the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation $3,620,000; the Farm Security Administration $2,753,000; and life insurance companies $1,807,000.

A further decline in the farm mortgage debt in the Nation, and the continued increase in land values during 1944, brought the ratio of the farm mortgage debt to the value of all farm real estate to its lowest point since 1912.

Pennsylvania farm mortgage debt on January 1, 1940 totaled $131,578,000. During that year it dropped approximately $1,850,000. In 1941 the total went down only $515,000, but in 1942 it dropped $3,533,000, reaching a total of $125,701,000 by January 1, 1943. A year later the farm debt total had been reduced approximately $2,250,000 and on January 1, 1945 was down another $2,500,000, leaving a total farm mortgage debt of $120,936,000, the lowest since 1918 when it was $118,106,000. The highest of record was $184,498,000 in 1932.

Farm land values are now the highest since the boom days of 1919 and 1920, and are 42 per cent above the 1935-39 average. During the year ended March 1 the increase was 11 per cent over the previous year, but there are indications that the peak might have been reached following a national increase of 3 per cent between March 1 and July 1. The volume of voluntary sales started downward last year in Pennsylvania. Most farm sales are to experienced farmers expanding their holdings, and to former farmers who went into war industries and plan to return to the soil after the war. Returning service men in increasing numbers will be buying farms, it is believed.

Chick Production Aids in Come-back

FARMERS and poultrymen of Pennsylvania are making a slow but sure effort to bring back egg and poultry production to meet civilian requirements.

Never before have demands for baby chicks been so heavy during the summer months, and every hatchery that can get hatching eggs and labor was operating at a time when they are ordinarily closed, it was said following a survey of the situation by the Federal-State Crop Reporting service

Baby chick production approached the all-time 1943 record for the month of July. It followed closely on a record-breaking June production, but still the demand continues far in excess of the supply.

July's commercial hatchery output is reported at 5,678,000 baby chicks which is nearly 2½ times production for July 1944. Chick production from January through July reached the amazing total of 70,725,000 which is more than 18 million in excess of production of hatcheries for the same period in 1944.

Bookings of advance orders at hatcheries on August 1 were roughly three times what they were on August 1, 1944. An increasing number of hatcheries by that date had closed for the season, but quite a few will resume activities in the fall.

The summer supply of chicks has been limited by shortages of help, the scarcity of hatching eggs, and a decline in the hatchability of eggs.

Nationally, the July output of chicks by commercial hatcheries was the largest of record for that month—101,339,000. It was 22 per cent higher than the previous July record hatch in 1943.

GRAIN STOCKS

WHILE stocks of corn and rye in all off-farm storages except commercial stocks at terminals and in CCC bins on July 1 were larger than a year earlier, similar holdings of oats and barley were slightly lower, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Shelled and ear corn in these positions totaled 610,000 bushels compared with 131,000 bushels on July 1, 1944. Rye holdings totaled 44,000 bushels or 6,000 more than a year earlier. Stocks of oats amounted to 545,000 compared with 660,000 last year, and 102,000 bushels of barley represented a drop of 14,000 from July 1, 1944.

The survey also reported 3,146,000 bushels of old wheat held on July 1 on farms, in interior mills, elevators and warehouses, and merchant mills, including commercial stocks at terminals and those owned by CCC and stored in its own bins. Including in this amount were 340,000 bushels in interior mills, elevators and warehouses, a drop of 160,000 bushels from a year earlier. Merchant mills had 320,000 bushels and off-farm storages had 1,122,000 bushels. Old wheat on farms totaled 1,724,000 bushels.

68 Pct. of Corn in Penn'a is Hybrid

POPULARITY of higher-yielding hybrid corn has increased among farmers of Pennsylvania to the extent that 68 per cent of all corn acreage this year has been planted to hybrid varieties, according to the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Farmer requests for Pennsylvania State-certified hybrid seed corn were such that the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry last year started to provide certification for varieties that are particularly adapted to Pennsylvania growing conditions. This year growers of hybrid seed have entered approximately 750 acres for State certification inspections.

Introduced into Pennsylvania little more than 10 years ago, by 1938 nearly 3½ per cent of the State corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. By 1940 the percentage had increased to nearly 15. It advanced at the rate of 10 per cent each year, reaching 54 per cent by 1944. In that year 771,000 acres out of a total of 1,428,000 were planted with hybrid corn.

Preliminary reports show that for 1945 Pennsylvania farmers have planted hybrid seed on 942,000 acres or 68 per cent of the 1,385,000 acres upon which corn will be grown this year in the Keystone State. Nationally, 64.1 per cent of all corn planted this year is of the hybrid type.

Pennsylvania will produce a larger corn crop this year than in 1944 even though the corn acreage has been reduced by 3 per cent. The indicated yield per acre is 40 bushels compared with 38 bushels in 1944, part of which is attributed to the more wide-spread use of hybrid seed corn.

TWO MORE slaughter houses were closed during the month of July, making a total of six for the first half of this year, in efforts by the Bureau of Animal Industry to insure only wholesome meat supplies for the public.

More than 4,600 meat markets and abattoirs were examined during the first half of 1945. No meat markets were found to be defective but owners of 35 slaughter houses were required to improve conditions or be closed.

D11.74/4

State Library
DSI

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, September 6, 1945 — No. 36

'Reconversion' Means 'Reconstruction' of Penn'a Agriculture in Post-War Period

"POST-WAR reconversion of Pennsylvania agriculture will mean mostly reconstruction to meet keener competition and get back to quality production," Secretary Horst declared in an August 30 statement on post-war agricultural problems.

The one thing that now concerns most Keystone farmers is the coming of the time when government financial supports are withdrawn from such foods as milk, butter and bread, and the consumer is asked to pay more so as to give the farmer a fair return for his labors, the Secretary said.

"Few consumers realize that Uncle Sam has been paying for the consumer an extra 2 cents on every quart of milk and as much as 10 cents on every pound of butter so that the farmer could meet the highest wage and feed costs in history," he explained.

Although national agricultural production this year is estimated at 30 to 35 per cent above pre-war levels, and over-all production in Pennsylvania has increased despite labor and machinery shortages, the percentage increase in production has been well below that of the Nation as a whole, Secretary Horst said.

Wartime Records

"Livestock and livestock products are the foundation of Pennsylvania agriculture," he continued. "Compared with average production in the 5 pre-war years, 1935 to 1939, milk production so far this year is 19 per cent higher, heading for an all-time record. Egg production is 24 per cent above the pre-war average. Chickens raised on farms increased 30 per cent and turkeys 164 per cent.

"But aside from wheat, most grains this year are below pre-war averages. Wheat production is up 4 per cent and corn down 3 per cent. Potatoes are down 20 per cent and apples are down 68 per cent although the State ranks third among all the commercial states in estimated apple output. We may face a feed shortage next year.

"The present 5,937,000 acreage in principal field crops is the highest since 1938 but is 3 per cent below the pre-war 1935-39 average. Farmers have done an excellent job of producing more food for war in the face of greater losses of workers to industry than in mid-western, large scale farming states. The use of higher yielding varieties of crops and good weather have helped in maintaining production at pre-war levels.

Some Future Trends

"Looking to the future, farmers of Pennsylvania realize they must maintain production on a commercial basis and advance it so that a smaller profit per bushel or ton still will bring a living and pay expenses. More efficient production, distribution and marketing are essential.

"In their eagerness to produce more food for war some farmers have permitted quality to slip. Lower quality eggs already are selling at below ceiling, but high quality eggs bring top prices. A State Egg Conservation Committee is now at work on improvement of standards and the establishment of uniform grades, a step in the right direction.

"Reconstruction of Pennsylvania agriculture will mean more cooperation among farmers in the use of machines and labor, more cooperative buying and selling, more small places operated by persons with city jobs, and an increased merging of farms under one operator. More farmers will grow tomatoes, peas and other vegetables for commercial processing.

"Practices started during the war on daily delivery of quality eggs, sweet corn, vegetables and fruits will be extended. Soon there will be daily delivery to city stores of fresh dressed, graded poultry. Packaged produce with 'eye appeal' will be in great demand.

"Our farmers are fortunate in being located close to urban markets. Largely on their own initiative they can and will meet competition from other areas.

"Prices received for farm products are now nearly on a par with the record peak of 1920. There are no indications as yet that farm wages might decline, or at least until industrial wages begin to drop. There is uncertainty as to how wages will trend. Agriculture should prosper as long as there is full employment coupled with cooperation between industry, labor, and agriculture."

Plenty of Turkeys Assured in Record Production for 1945

PLENTY of home-grown turkeys for Pennsylvania Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, together with an abundance of cranberries for "trimming," is assured this year according to the annual turkey population survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Going "all-out" in turkey production this year, Keystone farmers have raised an all-time record total of 1,670,000 holiday dinner birds. There are no government set-asides and all birds except those held back for breeding purposes will be available to civilian consumers.

"However," Department officials cautioned, "some growers already have accepted advance orders for delivery of all their birds, and the housewife who wants to be sure of a Pennsylvania turkey for the holidays will do well to get her order in early."

The national cranberry situation is the best since 1943, production being about 40 per cent greater than last year's short crop.

The 1945 Pennsylvania turkey production total is 385,000 birds or 30 per cent ahead of 1944. This is the fourth straight year that the output has exceeded the million mark. The new record ranks Pennsylvania 8th among all turkey producing states, an advance from 9th last year, and puts this State first among states east of the Mississippi River.

In attaining the new record many growers increased their flocks to capacity and a number of farmers are raising turkeys for the first time. Some report they added more poults after August 1 so as to take care of the increasing demand for turkeys that has been building up in recent years for the after-holiday trade. However, their main crops will be ready for market early.

Despite difficulty experienced with poults by some growers on account of the cold spring weather, and with older birds in southeastern counties by other growers due to the prolonged rainy season, loss to flocks has been relatively light. Condition in late August was very good. Disease appears to have been well controlled. Quite a few growers report they intend to save more breeders from this year's crop.

MAY TAKE YEAR TO GET ADEQUATE MACHINE SUPPLY

IT MAY be a year or more before farmers of Pennsylvania will be able to get all the farm machinery and equipment they desire, even though the Federal government has lifted the wartime ban on farm implements, Secretary Horst believes.

He explained that the recent government action merely permits farm machinery manufacturers to go into the open market for steel with which to make machines, and that it will take many months to get much more than wartime allocations on the assembly lines. There is little need for reconversion to keep turning out the same models of tractors, combines or binders, he said. However, ability to get raw material, the uncertainty of manpower, and return to full production "seem to indicate" that appreciable increases may not come until late in the spring or summer of 1946.

During the war many manufacturers devised new machines or so improved old ones that new machine tools and dies are necessary for mass production, and tooling and production will take time. Some such machines are still in the experimental stage and may not be ready for distribution for upwards of two years.

"What farmers need most right now is truck and tractor tires," the Secretary declared. "I understand the industrial tires released by government orders are not of the type generally needed by the average farmer. Many farm trucks and tractors are out of commission because they have no tires."

FOOD AGENTS KEEP CLOSE TABS ON WARTIME SUPPLY

THROUGH efforts to maintain a wholesome supply of consumer foods during wartime, the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry in the first six months of 1945 made nearly 23,000 investigations and instituted 244 prosecutions against alleged violators of the State food law.

State food agents obtained more than 1,300 samples of food, nearly 500 animal feeds and more than 300 fertilizers, limes, insecticides, fungicides, paints and oils. Each was checked to see that State standards were being observed by manufacturers and retailers.

Out of nearly 1,700 ice cream plant investigations, agents ordered immediate improvement of sanitary conditions at 80 plants between January 1 and June 30. Beverage agents visited more than 500 soft drink establishments and in 42 instances asked for improvement of conditions.

Special attention has been given during the spring and summer months to meats, including sausage, bologna and scrapple. A total of 401 samples of these foods were purchased for chemical examination. Bakery products came next with 341 samples and ice cream third with 203.

Nearly 28,600 hogs on Pennsylvania farms were vaccinated by practicing veterinarians against hog cholera between January 1 and August 1, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports. In July alone nearly 5,500 animals were so treated. This service is designed to prevent spread of disease and insure a wholesome meat supply.

STATE WILL RANK THIRD IN PRODUCTION OF APPLES

IN SPITE of the fact that Pennsylvania's commercial apple crop this year will be little more than one-third of production in 1944, latest reports indicate that the Keystone State in 1945 will rank third among all commercial apple states.

Recent Federal-State Surveys on 1945 indicated production of apples show only Washington and California will surpass Pennsylvania's estimated crop of 3,640,000 bushels. This total compares with 9,100,000 bushels harvested in 1944 when the Keystone State ranked fourth among the commercial apple states. Average production in this State for the 10-year period from 1934 to 1943, amounting to nearly 8,700,000 bushels, was good for fourth place.

If August 1 conditions hold up, Pennsylvania this year will produce more apples than New York State where an average of 15,887,000 bushels has enabled the Empire State consistently to produce second only to Washington. Virginia was in third place last year but is fifth this year as of August 1.

Pennsylvania peach production of 1,222,000 bushels this year will rank the State 16th according to August 1 indications. The State on that date rated 8th in cherry production with 3,800 tons, and 22d in pears with an indicated crop of 180,000 bushels.

P7) 1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 Harrisburg, September 13, 1945 No. 37

New Studies Reveal Average Net Income Farm Operators in State at $1,506 for 1944

THROUGH an initial effort to show agricultural production expenses on Pennsylvania farms, the Department has announced that the average net income of farm operators in the Keystone State for the year 1944 was $1,506.

Previously only unofficial estimates of net farm income were available. Special studies were completed recently on a national basis and the Pennsylvania figures are now provided through the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

"The report has some real economic significance for Pennsylvania agriculture," Secretary Horst declared. "It gives the returning service man, the industrial worker and others planning to enter farming as a post-war occupation, some idea of earnings that might be expected in comparison to other occupations.

"Compared with wartime industrial wage scales, a net income of $1,506 a year is not very much for the farmer, the unpaid labor of his family and for his capital invested. However, other compensations afforded by farm life and living will continue to attract and hold people on farms in spite of long hours and hard work."

The size of the average farm in Pennsylvania, according to the 1940 census, is 86.3 acres. Thousands are less than 10 acres in size, the Secretary explained.

Net income per farm operator in 1943 was $1,461 or $45 less than the 1944 average. The income figures do not include government payments to farmers for milk and other subsidies. In 1943 these payments averaged $60 per farm operator and last year advanced to $175.

Figuring Net Income

The net income information was derived by combining the cash receipts from farm marketings and the value of farm products consumed as food and fuel on the farm, plus the annual rental value of farm residences and deducting from the resulting gross income the production expenses incurred in connection with the farm operations. Income derived from other than agricultural pursuits was not included.

By this method it was determined that the 1944 gross income from agriculture on the average Pennsylvania farm was $3,840 and expenses averaged $2,334. In 1943 gross income averaged $3,702 and expenses $2,241. Deducted expenses for each year included 40 different items in 9 groups: feed purchased, livestock purchased, fertilizer and lime, cost of operating motor vehicles, maintenance or depreciation on buildings and machinery, hired labor, property taxes, farm mortgage interest, and miscellaneous operating expenses.

The last group (miscellaneous) includes electricity used for production; twine; operation of gasoline and steam engines; irrigation; grazing; fire, windstorm, and hail insurance; crop insurance; dairy supplies; blacksmithing and hardware supplies; greenhouse and nursery expenses; veterinary bills and medicines; short-term interest paid to banks, federal agencies, and non-institutional lenders; horses and mules purchased; seeds; insecticides; containers; and net rent to landlords not living on farms.

New Studies Available

Supplementary income derived from work by the farm operator or his family on other farms, from industrial employment, or from other non-agricultural sources is not included. The new net income series does not represent the total net income from agriculture, but only the share accruing to farm operators. Total net income from agriculture includes, in addition to this share, wages to farm laborers, farm mortgage interest, and net rent on farm property paid to landlords not living on farms. The period covered is the calendar year.

The net income information is based on a report to be issued shortly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which will include similar estimates for 1939-1943 and for 1929.

Information on cash receipts of Pennsylvania farmers from marketings of crops and livestock have been available on a monthly and annual basis for some time. Although these figures have been extremely useful, they are misleading for some purposes because, like figures on gross sales of non-farm business, they do not take into account differences in the expenses of production connected with the different types of enterprise. Production expenses account for a larger proportion of the cash income on certain types of farms than on others. Moreover, the year-to-year and State-to-State variations in these expenses may differ from variations in cash receipts.

The newly available net income series represents the net returns to farm operators in the several States for their labor, including the unpaid labor of their families, and for their capital and management. Being a net series, over and above operating expenses, it is more meaningful than cash receipts in measuring the income derived from the farm business available to the operator and his family for current living and savings. The net income series provides the basis for studies of regional differences in the level of living on farms, for comparisons of the relative size and purchasing power of the incomes of farm and non-farm families, and for numerous other special analyses.

End of War Sees Farm Prices Start Down Movement

END of the war in mid-August saw the index of prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania decline 2 points to 221 per cent of the average for the 1909-1914 period, the Department announced through surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. The drop came in the period from July 15 to August 15.

Principal cause of the decline, which missed reaching the June 1920 all-time high by 10 points, was a drop of 21 points in principal farm crops as marketings from this year's harvest began to show their effect on prices.

The livestock and livestock products index advanced 4 points to 213 per cent of the 1909-14 base. An advance of 5 cents per hundred pounds for milk to $3.50 wholesale, plus an advance of 12 points in prices received for poultry and eggs, more than offset the lower prices received for meat animals, except hogs, which showed no change.

The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar at $1.28 (based on the dollar being worth 100 cents in 1909-14) on August 15, was 1 cent less than in July 1945, but was 9 cents higher than in August 1944. The prices farmers were paying for goods and services at the end of the war were 173 per cent of the 1909-14 base average, the same as in mid-July. Comparisons follow:

	Aug. 15 1944	July 15 1945	Aug. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu.	$ 1.45	$ 1.57	$ 1.56
Corn, Bu.	1.45	1.35	1.35
Oats, Bu.	.84	.81	.77
Barley, Bu.	1.26	1.15	1.17
Rye, Bu.	1.22	1.22	1.24
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.39	1.11	1.06
Soybeans, Bu.	1.90	2.20	2.10
Potatoes, Bu.	2.10	2.40	2.20
Hay, loose, Ton	15.70	18.00	17.20
Apples, Bu.	2.15	3.15	2.70
Hogs, Cwt.	13.80	14.80	14.80
Beef cattle, Cwt.	11.60	14.30	13.90
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.00	16.40	16.30
Sheep, Cwt.	5.00	6.90	6.70
Lambs, Cwt.	13.00	14.70	14.30
Milk cows, Head	153.00	158.00	155.00
Horses, Head	125.00	112.00	110.00
Mules, Head	135.00	137.00	133.00
Chickens, Lb.	.271	.343	.348
Turkeys, Lb.	.360	.42	.42
Milk, whl. Cwt.	3.55	3.45	3.50
Milk, retail, qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter, Lb.	.48	.48	.49
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.49	.49
Eggs, Doz.	.397	.456	.497
Wool, Lb.	.43	.46	.45

LATE SUMMER INCREASE SHOWN IN FARM WORKERS

MORE than 2,000 foreign workers and prisoners of war were working on Pennsylvania farms when the end of the war came in mid-August.

Prisoners of war employed in Pennsylvania agricultural activities in early August, to relieve the acute labor shortage, totaled 355 compared with only 10 so engaged last May. The number of Jamaicans on farms of the State increased from 294 in May to 560 in August. Newfoundlanders dropped from 92 in May to 87 in August. The total of prisoners of war by mid-August advanced to 1,650 as the fall harvesting season opened.

A Federal-State report showed that approximately 600 more farm labor placements had been made through the extension service placement program for the first six months of this year than for the same period in 1944. Such placements this year totaled 5,914 compared with 5,325 from January 1 to June 30, 1944. Placements for the month of June this year totaled 3,077 against 3,529 for the same month last year.

While no total farm worker estimates are available for Pennsylvania alone, there was an increase in the Middle Atlantic States of approximately 28,000 family and hired workers between July 1 and August 1 of this year. Employment for the area was about 20,000 higher than a year ago on August 1.

POULTRY AND EGG BLACK MARKET BROKEN IN SEPT.

NOT ONLY is the poultry and egg black market definitely broken in Pennsylvania but consumers may expect gradually increasing supplies of both commodities, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg maketing division of the Bureau of Markets, reviewing market conditions in the first half of September.

"Laying birds are staying at home," Lawless declared as one of the main reasons for improvement in the September egg situation. It was recalled that the marketing specialist in midsummer, when store keepers were self-rationing precious eggs, advised farmers they would make out better by holding laying hens and marketing quality eggs this fall. Only the lowest egg producers now are being sold, he said. Chief factor in the improved poultry meat situation was government release of its priorities following the end of the war.

Temporarily there is a lull in the marketing of poultry, Lawless said. It is a time between "crops" of broilers ready for market. Supplies should increase by early October, he predicted.

Marketing of eggs through farmer cooperatives and other agencies were on the increase during early September. The demand for top quality eggs continued at ceiling prices. "Pee-wee," pullet and undergrade eggs, on the other hand, were selling at below ceiling prices in some sections of the State, Mr. Lawless reported.

The seasonal increase in egg production should start some time in December and will continue through the spring months, he added.

PA 1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, September 20, 1945 | No. 38

Milk Production In August Continues Record 14 Months

IN NO MONTH since June 1944 has milk production on Pennsylvania farms failed to exceed that for the corresponding month in the previous year, Secretary Horst announced following issuance of the August dairy survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

With production of 471,000,000 pounds of milk, August became the fourteenth consecutive month when milk output for the State exceeded that of the same month in the preceding year. Production in June last year was 479,000,000 pounds, the same as in June 1943, but every month's production since then has exceeded that of a year earlier. Output for August 1945 was 8 per cent above the 437 million pounds for August of last year.

Secretary Horst said there are more milking cows on Pennsylvania farms, one answer to increased production. However, he pointed to the fact that on September 1 dairy correspondents reported they were feeding 6.5 pounds of grain per cow, the highest known for September 1 since records were started in 1931.

"Release of government restrictions on distribution of milk and cream to civilians and for ice cream and other dairy products has increased demand and the farmers should be producing at these record rates well into 1946," the Secretary declared. "Production per cow shows less of a seasonal decline than in pre-war years. August production was only 3 per cent below July's. The percentage of cows being milked in herds continues high although showing a seasonal decline."

Pasture condition in the State as a whole declined 5 points during August. As of September 1 pastures were relatively dry in the west but good in the east. Pasture feeding was being supplemented by increasing amounts of roughage and grain on many dairy farms.

Farm Flocks, Egg Production Shrink

STILL LAGGING behind last year, Pennsylvania farm flocks produced 162,000,000 eggs during August, a drop of 28,000,000 or 17 per cent from the August 1944 output, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Responsibile for the decrease is a shrinkage of 2,419,000 in the number of layers from a year ago, an indication of the drain on farm flocks brought about by the civilian demand for poultry meat. Layers declined 2 per cent from July and egg production dropped 12 per cent. The seasonal decrease in layers from January 1 through August 31 amounted to about 37 per cent compared with a decline of about 27 per cent for the same period last year.

Egg production, which started seasonally down in April, declined about 43 per cent since March, or 4 per cent more than from the May peak to August last year.

Output of eggs in the first 8 months of 1945 was 13 per cent less than production for the same months last year, the report showed.

Egg prices received by Pennsylvania commercial poultrymen in August averaged 50.5 cents per dozen, 19 per cent more than a year earlier. They were paying 2 per cent less for feed. A year ago it required the value of 97 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed whereas this August it required only the return on 80 eggs to make the same purchase.

Prices received for live chickens, averaging 32.2 cents per pound, were more than 20 per cent higher than a year ago.

Corn and Tobacco Forge Ahead as Apples Decline and Potatoes are Hit by Disease

EXCEPT for a large section of Western Pennsylvania, the warm, humid and rainy days of early and late August improved prospects for all field crops in the State, particularly the expected yield per acre for corn and tobacco, but apples and pears declined, the Department reported through the August general crop survey of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Corn prospects in southeastern counties were such that a bumper crop is expected. The average yield per acre for the State was indicated on September 1 at 44 bushels per acre, 3 more than on August 1, and the nearest approach to the 1925 State record of 49.5 bushels that has been made since 1937 when the average was also 44 bushels.

The 1945 corn crop on September 1 was estimated at 60,192,000 bushels, or approximately 4,000,000 more than on August 1, nearly 7 million more than last year and close to 6 million above the 1934-43 average. Corn is not so good in the northern and western counties.

Tobacco prospects jumped in August with the crop indicated at 52,091,000 pounds. This is an advance of better than 8 million pounds over August 1 prospects, and will give a total production close to the 1944 crop and about 12 million pounds over the 10-year average.

There was no change in winter wheat prospects, production being indicated the same as August 1, at 20,446,000 bushels.

Much oats was laid down by storms, harvests were delayed by rains and a few crops were completely lost while others were baled for bedding. Barley is an excellent crop at 3,230,000 bushels, with record yields reported in many localities. Buckwheat was estimated at 2,460,000 bushels, slightly more than August 1. Hay yields were generally heavy but poor in quality, with production estimated at 3,412,000 tons, almost 200,000 more than in 1944.

Rains of August 24 and 30 provided soil moisture which enabled farmers to do their fall plowing. The tomato harvest was well under way by September 1.

Potato Prospects Low

In some sections of the east-central counties of Pennsylvania—one of the best potato growing areas of the State—prospects for 1945 spud production are the poorest in 50 years, the September 1 survey revealed.

Wet weather, blight and rot played havoc with potato production. Wet July reduced prospects by close to $1,000,000 for the State as a whole, and while there was a partial recovery in August, indications on September 1 were for a total crop of 17,670,000 bushels, approximately 1,500,000 less than last year. Average yield per acre on August 1 was 112 bushels and September 1 estimates were for 114. Summed up, September 1 conditions were:

In unsprayed and other fields where sprays were ineffective, late potatoes were mostly dead. Rot was generally reported from all sections of the State. In some southeastern localities loss from that cause was heavy.

Blight in commercial areas was being held in check with difficulty. In the western counties prospects would have been better had there been more moisture and fewer leaf hoppers. Potter County had quite a few poor stands. Blight was in evidence in the best sprayed fields and in many the set was light.

In some localities of northeastern Pennsylvania blight was the worst ever known, and many fields will never be dug. Blight was also serious in the Somerset-Cambria County mountain area.

In the hard-hit Lehigh-Northampton area well-sprayed fields still had chances of some recovery if good sunshine became available. Early crops generally yielded well. In the southeast, late crop prospects ranged from failure to good, but heavy rains encouraged blight and rot in many fields.

Tobacco Takes Jump

Much improved by August rains, the 1944 crop of Pennsylvania cigar filler tobacco jumped approximately 8 million pounds in estimated production during the month.

Indications on September 1 were for a Pennsylvania Seedleaf crop of 51,620,000 pounds, very close to last year's production of 52,416,000 grown on 33,600 acres or 2,000 less than utilized for this type of tobacco this year. Yield per acre was estimated at 1,450 pounds, 110 less than in 1944.

Cutting of Havana Seed tobacco was under way in the Clinton-Lycoming County area where weather was somewhat dry for best production. The Havana crop is estimated at 471,000 pounds compared with 477,000 last year.

Poor Fruit Year

For many Pennsylvania fruit growers, 1945 has been the worst production year ever experienced. Condition of apples September 1 was 23 per cent of normal, peaches 51 per cent, pears 19 per cent and grapes 29 per cent.

Apples—Commercial apple production prospects declined sharply during August and the outlook is for a crop only about one-third of 1944 production. Killing frosts and heavy rains at blossoming time combined to make 1945 production the lowest since 1921.

September 1 estimates were for a 1945 commercial apple crop of 3,380,000 bushels, far below the better-than-average 1944 production of 9,100,000 bushels and the 10-year average of 8,684,000. August 1 estimates were for a crop of 3,640,000 bushels. The State then ranked third in the Nation, but in New York there was no decline. The Empire State crop now is estimated slightly higher than Pennsylvania, at 3,510,000 bushels. The Keystone crop this year is also larger than that in Virginia for the first time in many years.

The 1945 national commercial apple crop is estimated at 68,260,000 bushels, a record low.

Grapes—The 1945 grape crop in the Erie belt is light and variable. Grapes are late and slow to show color. Bunches are small and scraggly with an occasional vine promising a fair crop. Berry moths have cut prospects sharply in some vineyards. Wood growth is heavy.

Production in the entire State this year is estimated at 7,300 tons, less than half of the 19,500 tons harvested last year. Average production of grapes in Pennsylvania for the 10-year period, 1934-1943, was 17,590 tons.

Cherries—Latest estimates on cherry production in Pennsylvania for the 1945 season are given as 3,800 tons, a small crop compared with the 11,200 tons harvested in 1944. The current year's production is only half the average of 7,600 tons for the 10-year period, 1934-1943.

Pears—The State pear crop this year is estimated at 126,000 bushels compared with 464,000 in 1944 and the 10-year average of 513,000.

Peaches—Harvesting of the 1945 Pennsylvania peach crop was about completed by September 1 when production was estimated at 1,222,000 bushels. The crop compares with 1944 production of 1,886,000 bushels, and the average of 1,601,000 bushels for the 10-year period, 1934-1943.

The national peach crop this year is estimated at 82,420,000 bushels, a record high production which is 6 per cent more than the previous record set in 1931.

Production is above average in New York and New Jersey, but below average in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

PA 1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENT SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, September 27, 1945 — No. 39

Reduce Baby Chick Orders as Meat Prospects Brighten

As prospects brightened for more meat for civilians, farmers began to cut down on their baby chick orders, the Department revealed recently. A Federal-State report on commercial hatchery production for the month of August, showing an all-time record for that month, said in part:

"Though the demand for chicks is strong and . . . in excess of supply, some Pennsylvania Hatcherymen report a slackening of orders for current delivery and a few cancellations since V-J Day.

"On the supply side, quality of eggs suitable for hatching is the limiting factor; on the demand side it is not only the season of the year but also the more liberal supply of meat available."

As in every month this summer, Pennsylvania production of chicks in August established a new record for the month. A total of 4,260,000 chicks were hatched compared with 1,960,000 for August 1944 and the August 5 year average (1939-43) of 2,531,000.

In the 8-month period, January to August inclusive, commercial hatcheries of the State turned out 74,985,000 baby chicks. This is approximately 20 million more than for the same period last year.

National production of more than 60 million chicks during August was the largest of record for that month. For the 8-month period, production was 23 per cent higher than for the same time in 1944. As in Pennsylvania, national demand has slowed down somewhat. Local supplies of poultry meat increased seasonally during August with a sharp upturn toward the close of the month, following termination of War Food Orders, in contrast to the "tight" situation that has prevailed.

VEGETABLE GROWING FOR FRESH MARKET PICKS UP

FROM a rather gloomy outlook in July, when demand far exceeded supply, commercial vegetable areas of Pennsylvania staged a remarkable comeback through more favorable weather in August, a Federal-State survey says.

As a result, 1945 production of early cabbage, carrots, celery, onions and spinach for fresh market will be greater than last year. Sweet corn, late cabbage, cucumbers and tomatoes, while above average, will not quite meet 1944 production totals.

Due to late planting and the wet July, sweet corn originally was estimated to be 15,000,000 ears less than was grown in 1944. Favorable conditions in August, however, gave a September 1 estimate of 47,700,000 ears, only about 7 million under last year. Marketings of an exceptionally good quality corn were at peak the first week in September.

Production of tomatoes for fresh market is estimated at 512,000 bushels compared with 558,000 last year. Cucumbers will total 117,000 bushels, only 3,000 below 1944.

Late summer cabbage production is placed at 32,300 tons, nearly 10,000 more than last year. Fall cabbage estimates on September 1 were for 13,600 tons, not far below last year's 15,000 tons.

There will be more Pennsylvania carrots, celery, onions and spinach this year compared with last. Carrot production is placed at 900,000 bushels, 270,000 more than in 1944. Celery production is estimated at 198,000 half-crates compared with only 138,000 last year. The onion crop is placed at 116,000 sacks of 50 pounds each, whereas last year there were 108,000 sacks produced. The September 1 outlook for spinach was for 777,000 bushels compared with only 400,000 in 1944.

NEW LAYING TEST

THE 13th Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest is scheduled to open at Harrisburg on Monday, October 1. The 1945-46 contest will have a capacity entry of 99 pens totaling 1,287 hens and pullets from 19 states and Canada.

Seventeen Pennsylvania breeders have entered 30 pens. A number of late applications had to be refused, an indication of the popularity of the Pennsylvania neutral proving ground for egg production.

Through the contest, which is operated for 51 weeks, breeders are able to determine the true worth of the foundation breeding stock they have developed. The 1944-45 contest was brought to a close on September 22. Final returns are expected to reveal some new records.

The State Bureau of Markets, sponsor of the egg laying contest, reports 9 pens of old hens entered in the 1945-46 event. In the pullet class there are 43 pens of Single Comb White Leghors; 17 of Rhode Island Reds; 11 New Hampshires, 9 Barred Plymouth Rocks, 6 White Rocks, 2 White Wyandottes and 1 each of Black Leghorn and Ancona. An entry fee of $20 is charged for each pen. Money received from the sale of eggs goes into the State Treasury.

MORE VEGETABLES BEING GROWN FOR PROCESSING

PROOF of the rising importance of Pennsylvania farms in the production of vegetables for canning and freezing comes from the State Department of Agriculture in a Federal-State report showing great increases over last year in the growing of snap beans, sweet corn, green lima beans and green peas.

Among the major canning crops Keystone vegetable growers report that only in tomatoes will they fall below 1944 production records. However, production of each of these vegetables this year will be far ahead of the average for the 10-year period, 1934-1943.

Snap bean production for processing, according to September 1 estimates, this year will total 10,100 tons, a gain of 2,200 tons over 1944. The 10-year average was 4,600 tons. Yield per acre this year is 1.6 tons compared with 1.3 in 1944.

Sweet corn for processing is estimated at 33,800 tons, an increase of 13,500 over last year. The 10-year average was 22,000 tons. Yield this year averages 2.5 tons per acre compared with only 1.4 last year.

The green lima bean crop for processing is placed at 1,840 tons of shelled beans, considerably more than twice the 1944 crop of 750 tons and more than four times the average of 440 tons. The acre yield is placed at 1,050 pounds shelled, 50 more than last year.

Pennsylvania this year produced a record 22,820 tons of shelled green peas for canning and freezing, an increase of 7,650 tons over last year. The 10-year average was slightly less than 8,000 tons. Yield per acre reached an all-time high for the State, 2,700

Tomatoes grown for processing this year are estimated at 155,800 tons which is 20,200 less than 1944, even though the acreage was 38,000, an increase of 3,500 acres over last year. Yield per acre, due to late planting and wet weather, dropped from 5.1 tons in 1944 to 4.1 tons this year. The 10-year average production of tomatoes for processing in Pennsylvania is 107,000 tons.

Except for cool nights, weather favored vegetable crops which made rapid growth during the first half of September. Rainfall averaged four-fifths of normal for the period and temperatures 6 to 8 degrees above normal. Supplies increased rapidly and demand dropped considerably for crops in season. Some markets were over-supplied with sweet corn as hot days matured the crop ahead of time.

Consumers of Ice Cream Cautioned About Illegal Sales

ICE CREAM consumers were cautioned recently by Secretary Horst against being defrauded in the purchase of inferior and adulterated ice creams from what he termed "unscrupulous dealers."

The Secretary said Department ice cream inspectors are still finding many retailers dispensing the product of unknown manufacturers from the cabinets of other advertised and registered manufacturers in spite of the fact that government restrictions have been lifted on the amount of frozen foods that may be produced.

Many dealers have been and will continue to be warned and taken before local peace officers for selling ice cream from refrigerating cabinets that also contain meat, fish, vegetables and other perishables, he said. Under the State Ice Cream Law such ice cream is adulterated and its sale is illegal, he explained.

A third common offense is the selling of ice cream that does not meet minimum wholesale weight requirements. Most violatons in this category are due to forcing air into ice cream mix in the process of freezing, he pointed out. This results in a "fluffing up" of the ice cream which then lacks "body," much is below state minimum requirements in food solids and is under legal wholesale weight of 4.75 pounds per gallon.

"Such practices must stop," Secretary Horst declared. "Consumers can help in Pennsylvania by making sure that package ice cream bears the name and address of the manufacturer. When possible to determine, they should see that bulk ice cream comes from the marked containers of the manufacturer whose product is advertised on the cabinet or in the store."

Recently the Department obtained convictions in a number of cases of ice cream law violations in Philadelphia which resulted in more than $500 paid in fines.

JAMES JOINS STAFF OF PROCESSING PLANT

THE resignation of Donald M. James, for 20 years Federal-State supervisor of fruit and vegetable inspections and chief of the fruit and vegetable division of the Department's Bureau of Markets, became effective August 31. His Federal-State duties have been taken over by Eugene R. Pheil, of St. Thomas, Franklin County, for a number of years a Federal marketing specialist on shipping point inspections, and recently attached to the New York City terminal market.

Mr. James has joined the staff of Chef Boy Ar-Dee food processing plant at Milton, Pennsylvania, as field representative. During the period he was with the Bureau of Markets the Federal-State inspection work grew from a few carloads in 1925 to 4,000 a year and the cannery products inspections increased to 386 million pounds in 1944. New inspection records were established in 1944 on apples, peas, cherries, tomatoes and totals of all crops.

Many new grades were formulated by Mr. James for Pennsylvania fruits and vegetables, Secretary Horst said. They included development of the only official grading system for raw peas for canning after 10 years of experimental work. This system has been widely adopted by canners in Pennsylvania and its use is now spreading to other states.

The State-established rabies quarantine that was placed on all of Allegheny County on May 7 for 100 days and renewed for another 100 days beginning August 14, was revoked effective September 22. Lifting of the State ban in no way affected local municipal dog quarantines.

DA 1 94/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, October 4, 1945 — No. 40

Farm Groups Hear Objectives of the State Soil Conservation Law at County Meetings

PROMOTION of the health, safety and general welfare of the public is a main objective of Pennsylvania's new Soil Conservation Law provided by the 1945 Legislature, according to Secretary Horst, chairman of the State Soil Conservation Commission.

In the past few weeks the Secretary has met with large groups of farmers and the Boards of County Commissioners of Crawford and Fulton Counties where interest has been expressed in operation of the law and the possible establishment of soil conservation districts. At each meeting he stressed the "Declaration of Policy" contained in the act, which reads as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth to provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources of this Commonwealth, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to preserve natural resources; assist in the control of floods; prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs; assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors; preserve wildlife; preserve the tax base; protect public lands; and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Secretary explained that only favorable action by a Board of County Commissioners is required to establish a county-wide soil conservation district. Increasing interest is being shown in various other counties since the Commission announced that it would, on request, meet with farmers and county commissioners to explain operation of the 1945 act.

While an initial objective of county-wide soil conservation districts is to make possible the control of soil erosion in a county under an organized plan, Secretary Horst declared it was but one of many problems to be encountered in a broad conservation program designed to benefit not only the farmers but all residents of a county, as indicated in the declaration of policy.

A district can cooperate with local communities in the development and maintenance of projects to safeguard local water supplies, assist on a community basis in the establishment of drainage projects, assist in the conservation of wildlife, and to acquire title to abandoned lands and put them in line for proper use so that they will at some future time, be an asset in maintaining a tax base for such counties, rather than continue as a liability. Many other activities of similar nature are possible under the 1945 conservation act, it was said.

1944-45 Egg Laying Contest Completed

TWO NEW TEST records were established by out-of-state pullet pens, and three Pennsylvania breeders had pullet pens which finished among the five highest in the 12th annual Pennsylvania Official Egg Laying Contest which ended September 22. Under Department sponsorship the 1945-46 contest opened October 1 with a capacity of 99 pens from 19 states and Canada.

At the end of the 51-week 1944-45 contest an all-time high record for the Pennsylvania event was achieved for the number of eggs laid by a single pen since the contest was first established in 1932. This distinction was won by a pen entered by the Foreman Poultry Farm, Lowell, Michigan. The pen of pullets laid a total of 3,988 eggs. Allowing 1 point for each 2-ounce egg, and adding or subtracting for fractional parts over or under that weight, the Foreman pen amassed a total of 4,152.55 points.

The other record was made by a pen of White Wyandotte pullets which was out in front of all pullet pens of the same breed entered this year in all egg laying contests in the United States. It was an entry of Taylor's Poultry Breeding Farm, Cedar Lake, Indiana, which produced 3,096 eggs for 3,188.60 points. The Taylor Farm also had the highest individual bird in the pullet class with 306 eggs and 309.35 points.

This year 9 pullets had more than 330 eggs and 330 points for the 51-week test. The highest number to achieve this distinction in any previous Pennsylvania contest was 4 birds. The 9 pullets are designated as "Golden Egg Winners." The Foreman Farm had the top bird in the group this year, a White Leghorn with 343 eggs and 368.80 points. Birds entered by Guy A. Leader, York, finished 3rd and 6th, and George M. Anthony, Strausstown, one that finished 8th.

Pennsylvania Leaders

Running next to the Foreman pullet pen for high honors were two Pennsylvania entries which tied for second place in the number of points scored 4,002.95. Second place was awarded under the rules of the contest to the Burr Poultry Farm, Tunkhannock, whose entry laid 3,785 eggs, 22 less than the 3rd place pen of Guy A Leader, York. The Burr eggs, while fewer, were larger and the extra weight won 2nd place. Both pens were Single Comb White Leghorns. Fourth place went to St. John's Poultry Farm, Webb City Missouri, with 3,892 eggs and 3,977.85 points.

George M. Anthony, Strausstown, had a White Leghorn pen finish in 5th place with 3,636 eggs and 3,856.25 points.

Others in the highest 10 pens were: sixth, a Rhode Island Red pen entered by Crooks Farm, North Brookfield, Massachusetts, 3,642 eggs and 3,839 points; seventh, White Leghorns from the Mosher Pedigreed Leghorn Farm, South Dayton, New York, 3,766 eggs and 3,748.20 points; eighth, White Leghorns of William C. Roberts, Dundalk, Maryland, 3,516 eggs and 3,656.40 points; ninth, White Leghorns of George M. Herberer Breed Farm, San Antonio, Texas, 3,553 eggs and 3,642.05 points; tenth, White Leghorns entered by W. S. Hannah and Son, Grand, Rapids, Michigan, 3,387 eggs and 3,612.95 points.

A total of 260,384 eggs were laid in the 1944-45 contest compared with 226,628 in the previous contest (1942-43). Points totaled 271,552.70 compared with 236,397.00. The number of birds at the close of the contest this year was 1,196 compared with 1,079 and mortality was 16.14 per cent compared with 18.44, a drop of 2.30 per cent. Production in the 1944-45 contest was 60.98 per cent compared with 58.83, a gain of 2.15 per cent. Average points per bird were 227.05 compared with 219.09, a gain of 7.96 points. The average number of eggs was 217.71 compared with 210.04 an increase of 7.67 this year over the previous contest. The average weight of eggs was the same for both contests, 24.86 ounces per dozen.

BIG FAIR SEASON

WITH many county and community fairs reporting all-time high attendances, the 1945 season should come close to the best pre-war records.

Two shows are scheduled for November 8 to 10, the Nazareth Farm Products Show at Nazareth, Northampton County, and the Springfield Farm Show at Pleasant Valley, Bucks County. Closing the 1945 season will be the 13th annual Livestock Sale and Show, known also as the Pittsburgh Beef and Lamb Show, to be held in Pittsburgh November 26 to 28.

Percentage D.D.T. Must be Shown on Package Labels

IN ORDER to provide full information to purchasers of insect sprays and powders containing DDT, Secretary Horst has announced that all manufacturers offering DDT preparations are required to include on the printed labels the percentage of DDT contained in the product.

The Secretary also stated that in addition to the requirements for labeling as given in the State Insecticide and Fungicide Law, manufacturers of DDT sprays and powders are requested to include on all labels a statement of: (1) Caution concerning the danger to humans of inhaling the mist of sprays; (2) Warning against contact with the skin when an oil base is used in mixing sprays containing DDT; (3) Caution against contact of sprays and powders with any foods for human consumption.

"We have followed these precautions since the first Pennsylvania registration was completed on July 31," Secretary Horst declared. "It is only proper that the purchaser know what strength DDT he is getting. We have been asked to register one product containing only one-tenth of 1 per cent of DDT, an amount that obviously is rather low in the light of most experiments with the war-developed insecticide.

"Sprays containing DDT registered to date with the Department of Agriculture contain from 2 to 25 per cent of the chemical, while powder forms range from 5 to 50 per cent, according to claims of manufacturers."

Registrations with the Department by October totaled 63, the Secretary added. Of these, 43 were issued to individuals or firm within the State.

Finish Bang Tests In 3 More Counties

IN SPITE of a serious wartime shortage of veterinarians, Bang disease testing has been completed in Luzerne, Montour and Schuylkill Counties by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Secretary Horst has announced.

This achievement makes a total of 24 counties in the Commonwealth that have been completely tested under the individual and area plan, 19 of which are now classified as modified accredited Bang disease counties, the Secretary said.

In keeping with the customary practice of providing protection for the tested herds, the State has established quarantines against shipments of untested cattle into the three newly tested counties. The quarantine became effective in Montour County on August 1, in Schuylkill on October 1, and will start in Luzerne on October 15.

In effect, the Bang disease quarantines mean that no cattle, except those intended for slaughter within 10 days, may be taken into any of the counties in which testing has been completed unless they are known to have come from Bang disease negative herds. Such cattle must be accompanied by a Bang disease health certificate approved by the Federal or Pennsylvania Bureaus of Animal Industry. There is no ban against the movement of cattle from quarantined areas to untested areas, the Secretary explained.

Bang disease testing in Pennsylvania now has covered 608 townships in 35 counties. Testing has been completed in 24 counties and 11 counties have been partially tested.

In controlling the disease, more than 2,200 Luzerne County herds containing nearly 13,500 cattle were tested. In Montour 562 herds of 5,119 cattle went under test, and 1,781 herds containing more than 10,000 cattle were tested in Schuylkill County.

PA 1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, October 11, 1945 | No. 41

Price Averages Continue Decline From War High

AVERAGE prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania for principal agriculture products during the month ended September 15 continued a decline from the wartime high spot reached in July.

A drop of 6 points to 215 per cent of the 5-year average, 1909-1914, was due almost entirely to the lower price of potatoes which declined from $2.20 to $1.70 per bushel, a Federal-State survey revealed. August showed a drop of 2 points in the price index from the July peak of 223, highest since 1920.

The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar at $1.24 on September 15 was 4 cents less than in August of this year but still 5 cents higher than in September 1944. This value is based on the 1909-1914 dollar being worth 100 cents.

With the September average of all prices received dropping to 115 per cent above the 1909-14 average, the livestock and livestock products remained unchanged from the August 15 index of 213. In this category a decline of 5 points in meat animals to 208 and 1 point to 209 for poultry and eggs, was offset by a 2 point advance in dairy products to an index of 217, or 117 per cent above the 1909-14 average.

The drop in potato prices, according to Department marketing officials, was due mostly to the large crop of early potatoes in the Middle Atlantic States and the fact that many growers who normally stored 75 per cent of their crops sent many of them to market. Government purchases at floor prices accounted for some movement, and more Pennsylvania early potatoes were moving into storage. Summary:

		Sept. 15 1944	Aug. 15 1945	Sept. 15 1945
Wheat	Bu.	$ 1.44	$ 1.56	$ 1.56
Corn	"	1.45	1.35	1.35
Oats	"	.80	.77	.75
Barley	"	1.22	1.17	1.18
Rye	"	1.22	1.24	1.29
Buckwheat	"	1.23	1.06	1.06
Soybeans	"	1.95	2.10	2.10
Potatoes	"	2 00	2.20	1.70
Hay, loose	Ton	16.00	17.20	17.80
Apples	Bu.	2.10	2.70	3.20
Hogs	Cwt.	14.10	14.80	14.80
Beef cattle	"	11.10	13.90	13.40
Veal calves	"	14.50	16.30	16.30
Sheep	"	4.85	6.70	6.40
Lambs	"	12.80	14.30	13.90
Milk cows	Head	151.00	155.00	150.00
Horses	"	120.00	110.00	106.00
Mules	"	132.00	133.00	129.00
Chickens	Lb.	.268	.348	.318
Turkeys	"	.36	.42	.41
Milk, wholesale	Cwt.	3.60	3.50	3.55
Milk, retail	Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter	Lb.	.48	.49	.49
Butterfat	"	.49	.49	.50
Eggs	Doz.	.420	.497	.510
Wool	Lb.	.43	.45	.44

RED CLOVERSEED

A drop this year compared with last in the production of red cloverseed on Pennsylvania farms is reported following a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Because of the increasing demand for red cloverseed, farmers who specialize in growing it in Pennsylvania set out this year to expand their acreages. However, weather conditions prevented, and there was a net drop of 4,000 in the acreage finally harvested.

From 27,000 acres farmers of the State this year harvested 22,000 bushels of thresher run seed or 18,000 bushels of clean seed. Production last year was 26,000 bushels thresher run. Yield per acre this year was .80 bushel compared with .85 in 1944.

Only in south central counties was more acreage cut this year than last.

National output this year is estimated at close to 95 million bushels of clean seed and current supplies, including carry-over, are 107,660,000 pounds of clean seed.

FARM CASH INCOME

CASH RECEIPTS from Pennsylvania farm marketings for the first six months of this year were approximately $4,000,000 greater than for the same period in 1944, according to a Federal-State survey. Government payments to farmers, mostly in the form of subsidies to dairy farmers for milk production, showed an increase of approximately $2,000,000 for the period.

The report indicates that farm cash income in Pennsylvania may pass the half billion dollar mark for the third consecutive year. The total from January through June is $252,304,000 compared with $248,507,000 for the first half of 1944. For the entire year 1944 the cash receipts from farm marketings totaled $521,520,000 including receipts from sale of baby chicks.

Government payments for the first half of this year totaled $15,123,000 compared with $13,116,000 for the first six months of 1944.

"These amounts do not represent net income of farmers by any means," Secretary Horst declared. "They are gross receipts and from them the farmers must deduct all expenses, including the payment of the highest wage rates in the history of Pennsylvania agriculture."

2 SOUTHERN STATES PLACE BAN ON UNTESTED CHICKS

THE Department cautions Pennsylvania poultrymen and baby chick hatcheries not to ship chicks, hatching eggs or turkey poults into North Carolina or Alabama unless they come from flocks that meet minimum requirements of pullorum disease control provided by recent legislation in those States.

Under new laws and regulations those states may now confiscate entire out-of-state shipments of chicks, poults and hatching eggs without special clearance certificates issued by the official state agency or the livestock sanitation officials of the state of origin, it was said.

According to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets, the North Carolina and Alabama laws and regulations represent an effort to control pullorum disease. In each state untested stock that is seized may be destroyed or returned to the shipper at the latter's expense. Each state also bans the sale of chicks, hatching eggs and turkey poults that do not originate in flocks which meet requirements of the National Poultry Improvement Plan and regulations of the act.

Mr. Lawless said that steps are being taken by the poultry industry of Pennsylvania for adoption of the National Poultry Improvement Plan in this State.

QUARANTINE REMOVED

THE STATE 1945 Japanese beetle quarantine established for the heavily infested area in southeastern Pennsylvania on June 21 was lifted September 30.

Department entomologists said that the infestation of beetles this year was about the same as in other recent years, heavier in some sections and lighter in others. The edge of heaviest infestation moved west and northwest along a quarter-circle extending from Lehigh through Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland and York Counties.

Year-round quarantine restrictions remain in effect in all other parts of the State which is classified as "generally infested" with Japanese beetles. They do not apply to fruit and vegetables, but are effective for the movement of earth, compost, soil and nursery stock that might contain grubs of the pest. Only a few townships in Erie and neighboring northwestern Pennsylvania counties are still free from the beetles.

General Farmers Need no License For Slaughtering

RECEIPT of an increasing number of requests from farmers for information on whether or not they will be required to take out a slaughtering license by next January under a 1945 Legislative amendment to the Pennsylvania Meat Hygiene Act, has prompted Secretary Horst to issue the following statement:

"According to the amended law, 'a person who owns or operates a farm and who derives his support mainly from its cultivation shall not be required to apply for or to secure a license' for the slaughtering, dressing and sale of poultry, swine, steers, calves or other meat animals.

"This means that most bona fide 'general' farmers may kill, butcher and sell any animals or poultry that they raise on their farms without getting a State license. However, if such farmers make a business of buying from others any finished meat animal or poultry for dressing and resale to regular customers or at farmers' markets they are classed as slaughterers and must apply for a license and pay the $10 annual fee required by the State law. The license will be issued when and if his slaughtering establishment meets sanitation requirements."

All commercial slaughterers must obtain licenses on or before January 1, 1946.

Agents of the Bureau of Animal Industry, located throughout the State, have been listing all known slaughtering establishments preparatory to the mailing of application forms on or about November 15. All such establishments must pass State inspection as to sanitary conditions before licenses can be issued.

DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR ALL FAIR REPORTS

EACH county or community fair association in Pennsylvania in order to qualify for State financial aid for premium payments on agricultural exhibits, is required to file a detailed report with the Department on or before December 15 of each year.

In order to speed up premium payments to qualified fair associations, F. S. Keet, Department Comptroller, has requested all associations to submit their 1945 reports as promptly as possible. He says that in past years most associations submitted their reports on or very close to the December 15 deadline and as a result it was difficult to complete auditing and obtain payments by January 15 of the following year.

Associations that did not hold a fair this year due to war conditions should report that fact to the Department by December 15 in order that they may continue to qualify for State aid in premium payments when they resume operations next year, Keet added.

PROGRESS IN TESTING

PUSHING ahead with Bang disease testing on farms of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports that during September 3,669 herds of cattle were under test with 472 herds or 15.5 per cent showing infection. Of the approximately 43,500 cattle in these herds only 1,508 or 3.6 per cent showed positive reaction to the disease.

More than 71,300 herds in Pennsylvania, totaling over 743,000 cattle are now under Bang disease supervision. Testing of herds has now been completed in 24 counties.

Federal indemnities paid farmers during September as a part of the disease control and eradication program totaled $35,811.91 and State payments amounted to $36,122.21.

PA1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS SECTION

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, October 11, 1945 — No. 41

Price Averages Continue Decline From War High

AVERAGE prices received by farmers of Pennsylvania for principal agriculture products during the month ended September 15 continued a decline from the wartime high spot reached in July.

A drop of 6 points to 215 per cent of the 5-year average, 1909-1914, was due almost entirely to the lower price of potatoes which declined from $2.20 to $1.70 per bushel, a Federal-State survey revealed. August showed a drop of 2 points in the price index from the July peak of 223, highest since 1920.

The purchasing power of the farmer's dollar at $1.24 on September 15 was 4 cents less than in August of this year but still 5 cents higher than in September 1944. This value is based on the 1909-1914 dollar being worth 100 cents.

With the September average of all prices received dropping to 115 per cent above the 1909-14 average, the livestock and livestock products remained unchanged from the August 15 index of 213. In this category a decline of 5 points in meat animals to 208 and 1 point to 209 for poultry and eggs, was offset by a 2 point advance in dairy products to an index of 217, or 117 per cent above the 1909-14 average.

The drop in potato prices, according to Department marketing officials, was due mostly to the large crop of early potatoes in the Middle Atlantic States and the fact that many growers who normally stored 75 per cent of their crops sent many of them to market. Government purchases at floor prices accounted for some movement, and more Pennsylvania early potatoes were moving into storage. Summary:

		Sept. 15 1944	Aug. 15 1945	Sept. 15 1945
Wheat	Bu.	$ 1.44	$ 1.56	$ 1.56
Corn	"	1.45	1.35	1.35
Oats	"	.80	.77	.75
Barley	"	1.22	1.17	1.18
Rye	"	1.22	1.24	1.29
Buckwheat	"	1.23	1.06	1.06
Soybeans	"	1.95	2.10	2.10
Potatoes	"	2 00	2.20	1.70
Hay, loose	Ton	16.00	17.20	17.80
Apples	Bu.	2.10	2.70	3.20
Hogs	Cwt.	14.10	14.80	14.80
Beef cattle	"	11.10	13.90	13.40
Veal calves	"	14.50	16.30	16.30
Sheep	"	4.85	6.70	6.40
Lambs	"	12.80	14.30	13.90
Milk cows	Head	151.00	155.00	150.00
Horses	"	120.00	110.00	106.00
Mules	"	132.00	133.00	129.00
Chickens	Lb.	.268	.348	.318
Turkeys	"	.36	.42	.41
Milk, wholesale	Cwt.	3.60	3.50	3.55
Milk, retail	Qt.	.143	.142	.142
Butter	Lb.	.48	.49	.49
Butterfat	"	.49	.49	.50
Eggs	Doz.	.420	.497	.510
Wool	Lb.	.43	.45	.44

RED CLOVERSEED

A drop this year compared with last in the production of red cloverseed on Pennsylvania farms is reported following a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Because of the increasing demand for red cloverseed, farmers who specialize in growing it in Pennsylvania set out this year to expand their acreages. However, weather conditions prevented, and there was a net drop of 4,000 in the acreage finally harvested.

From 27,000 acres farmers of the State this year harvested 22,000 bushels of thresher run seed or 18,000 bushels of clean seed. Production last year was 26,000 bushels thresher run. Yield per acre this year was .80 bushel compared with .85 in 1944.

Only in south central counties was more acreage cut this year than last.

National output this year is estimated at close to 95 million bushels of clean seed and current supplies, including carry-over, are 107,660,000 pounds of clean seed.

FARM CASH INCOME

CASH RECEIPTS from Pennsylvania farm marketings for the first six months of this year were approximately $4,000,000 greater than for the same period in 1944, according to a Federal-State survey. Government payments to farmers, mostly in the form of subsidies to dairy farmers for milk production, showed an increase of approximately $2,000,000 for the period.

The report indicates that farm cash income in Pennsylvania may pass the half billion dollar mark for the third consecutive year. The total from January through June is $252,304,000 compared with $248,507,000 for the first half of 1944. For the entire year 1944 the cash receipts from farm marketings totaled $521,520,000 including receipts from sale of baby chicks.

Government payments for the first half of this year totaled $15,123,000 compared with $13,116,000 for the first six months of 1944.

"These amounts do not represent net income of farmers by any means," Secretary Horst declared. "They are gross receipts and from them the farmers must deduct all expenses, including the payment of the highest wage rates in the history of Pennsylvania agriculture."

2 SOUTHERN STATES PLACE BAN ON UNTESTED CHICKS

THE Department cautions Pennsylvania poultrymen and baby chick hatcheries not to ship chicks, hatching eggs or turkey poults into North Carolina or Alabama unless they come from flocks that meet minimum requirements of pullorum disease control provided by recent legislation in those States.

Under new laws and regulations those states may now confiscate entire out-of-state shipments of chicks, poults and hatching eggs without special clearance certificates issued by the official state agency or the livestock sanitation officials of the state of origin, it was said.

According to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets, the North Carolina and Alabama laws and regulations represent an effort to control pullorum disease. In each state untested stock that is seized may be destroyed or returned to the shipper at the latter's expense. Each state also bans the sale of chicks, hatching eggs and turkey poults that do not originate in flocks which meet requirements of the National Poultry Improvement Plan and regulations of the act.

Mr. Lawless said that steps are being taken by the poultry industry of Pennsylvania for adoption of the National Poultry Improvement Plan in this State.

QUARANTINE REMOVED

THE STATE 1945 Japanese beetle quarantine established for the heavily infested area in southeastern Pennsylvania on June 21 was lifted September 30.

Department entomologists said that the infestation of beetles this year was about the same as in other recent years, heavier in some sections and lighter in others. The edge of heaviest infestation moved west and northwest along a quarter-circle extending from Lehigh through Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland and York Counties.

Year-round quarantine restrictions remain in effect in all other parts of the State which is classified as "generally infested" with Japanese beetles. They do not apply to fruit and vegetables, but are effective for the movement of earth, compost, soil and nursery stock that might contain grubs of the pest. Only a few townships in Erie and neighboring northwestern Pennsylvania counties are still free from the beetles.

General Farmers Need no License For Slaughtering

RECEIPT of an increasing number of requests from farmers for information on whether or not they will be required to take out a slaughtering license by next January under a 1945 Legislative amendment to the Pennsylvania Meat Hygiene Act, has prompted Secretary Horst to issue the following statement:

"According to the amended law, 'a person who owns or operates a farm and who derives his support mainly from its cultivation shall not be required to apply for or to secure a license' for the slaughtering, dressing and sale of poultry, swine, steers, calves or other meat animals.

"This means that most bona fide 'general' farmers may kill, butcher and sell any animals or poultry that they raise on their farms without getting a State license. However, if such farmers make a business of buying from others any finished meat animal or poultry for dressing and resale to regular customers or at farmers' markets they are classed as slaughterers and must apply for a license and pay the $10 annual fee required by the State law. The license will be issued when and if his slaughtering establishment meets sanitation requirements."

All commercial slaughterers must obtain licenses on or before January 1, 1946.

Agents of the Bureau of Animal Industry, located throughout the State, have been listing all known slaughtering establishments preparatory to the mailing of application forms on or about November 15. All such establishments must pass State inspection as to sanitary conditions before licenses can be issued.

DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE FOR ALL FAIR REPORTS

EACH county or community fair association in Pennsylvania in order to qualify for State financial aid for premium payments on agricultural exhibits, is required to file a detailed report with the Department on or before December 15 of each year.

In order to speed up premium payments to qualified fair associations, F. S. Keet, Department Comptroller, has requested all associations to submit their 1945 reports as promptly as possible. He says that in past years most associations submitted their reports on or very close to the December 15 deadline and as a result it was difficult to complete auditing and obtain payments by January 15 of the following year.

Associations that did not hold a fair this year due to war conditions should report that fact to the Department by December 15 in order that they may continue to qualify for State aid in premium payments when they resume operations next year, Keet added.

PROGRESS IN TESTING

PUSHING ahead with Bang disease testing on farms of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Animal Industry reports that during September 3,669 herds of cattle were under test with 472 herds or 15.5 per cent showing infection. Of the approximately 43,500 cattle in these herds only 1,508 or 3.6 per cent showed positive reaction to the disease.

More than 71,300 herds in Pennsylvania, totaling over 743,000 cattle are now under Bang disease supervision. Testing of herds has now been completed in 24 counties.

Federal indemnities paid farmers during September as a part of the disease control and eradication program totaled $35,811.91 and State payments amounted to $36,122.21.

PA1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, October 18, 1945 — No. 42

Most Crops Except Apples Make Gains in September Weather; Milk Production High

A combination of weather conditions brought a potential loss of close to $2,000,000 to commercial apple growers of Pennsylvania during September, the Department reported through the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service general crop survey as of October 1.

Estimated commercial apple production on September 1 was 3,380,000 bushels. By October 1 it dropped to 2,730,000, a loss of 650,000 bushels. In commenting, the report said in part:

"The few apples left on trees generally attained good size and show considerable cracking. The harvest began about 10 days earlier than usual. It appears that after each rain there were fewer apples left on the trees for harvest. Many drops have been salvaged."

Shortage of farm labor in Pennsylvania appears to be more acute than ever. Harvesting was delayed in many areas as a result.

Some oats still in the fields southeast of the mountains October 1 was sprouting and rotting. Rains delayed harvest of buckwheat but soybeans made good growth. Most winter wheat sowing will be later than usual and quite a bit of barley was still to be planted.

Corn production as of October 1 was estimated at 60,192,000 bushels compared with 53,580,000 last year; winter wheat, 20,446,000 bushels compared with 20,108,000 last year; oats, 25,590,000 bushels compared with 23,912,000; buckwheat, 2,460,000 bushels compared with 2,940,000; and hay, 3,435,000 tons compared with 3,216,000 tons last year.

On the whole, September weather permitted Pennsylvania field crops to develop about as anticipated. Corn, tobacco and cabbage generally benefited from rains 3 inches above normal, but some buckwheat, potatoes and tomatoes suffered from excess moisture.

There were no killing frosts during the month except in some localities in northern tier counties, but below freezing temperatures on the morning of October 4 killed tender vegetation over most of the State. Temperatures during September averaged 2 degrees above normal.

Corn growth was favored the fore part of September. By October 1 not much corn had been husked in any section. Yields were reported very good, averaging 44 bushels to the acre compared with 38 last year and 41 for the 10-year average, 1934-43. Production is about 6½ million over 1944 and 6 million better than average.

Production estimates for all small grains remained the same as for September 1.

September Milk Record

IN SPITE of the increasing shortage of farm labor and the fact that dairy feeds are advancing in price and are hard to get in some localities, farmers of Pennsylvania set an all-time high September record in milk production. The total was 430 mililon pounds, 9 per cent below August, but 7 per cent above September of last year, and 16 million pounds more than the previous record for the month of September, set in 1942.

Chief factors contributing to the new record were an abundance of pasturage and the mild weather that prevailed during the month. The October 1 condition of pastures equaled the record established for that date in 1942.

Demand for both milk and cows is reported good, but no change in the number of cows is apparent. The number of milking cows for September is estimated at 937,000, the same as September 1944, and about the same as for the past four months.

More Layers, Fewer Eggs

ALTHOUGH the number of laying hens and pullets on Pennsylvania farms in September was 12 per cent above the previous month, egg production on farms of the State continued to decline seasonally. The 150 million eggs estimated to have been produced during September was 12 million, or more than 7 per cent below August production. The total was 20 million, or about 12 per cent less than the number produced in September 1944.

The number of layers this September was 13,240,000 which was 1,429,000 more than in August, but nearly 2 million fewer than in September 1944. The total number of eggs produced in Pennsylvania between January 1 and October 1 this year was nearly 2 billion (1,957,000,000). However, this great output was 13 per cent below that of the same period in 1944, the State's record year for egg production.

Commercial poultrymen report receiving 19 per cent more for eggs while paying about the same price for feed, compared with September of last year.

The egg-feed ratio for September was slightly better than in August, commercial poultrymen reported. At September prices the value of 78 eggs purchased 100 pounds of feed as against 80 eggs in August and 93 in September 1944.

Weather Aids Potatoes

OF THE BIG national potato crop totaling more than 435 million bushels, Pennsylvania potato growers this year will contribute 17,825,000 bushels, or about 1,315,000 less than last year and approximately 4½ million under the 10-year average, 1934-43.

Late potatoes, where well sprayed and still green, made considerable gain in size and weight during September. Digging was delayed because the ground was too wet. Well-sprayed fields of commercial growers, though grassy and weedy, will produce some excellent yields.

For the State as a whole, this year's potato acreage of 155,000 acres is 10,000 under that of last year. Yield per acre as of October 1 was 115 bushels compared with 116 in 1944 and the 10-year average of 120 bushels.

Smallest Apple Crop

HARVESTING of the smallest crop of commercial apples ever recorded in Pennsylvania should be completed by the end of the month. As of October 1, production was indicated at 2,730,000 bushels which is 6,370,000 under the exceptionally large crop of 9,100,000 bushels last year. The total 1945 crop is only 31 per cent of average due to killing frosts at blossoming time last spring.

Although the national peach crop this year established a new high record, Pennsylvania's 1,222,000-bushel production was well under the 1,886,000 bushels in 1944 and the average of 1,601,000 for the 10-year period, 1934-43. National pear production this year also was of record proportions, but in Pennsylvania the crop of 126,000 bushels is 338,000 less than last year and 387,000 under the 10-year average.

Poor Grape Year

ALTHOUGH Pennsylvania's 1945 grape crop will total only 6,800 tons, or little more than one-third of last year's big production of 19,500 tons, it will be sufficient for the State to retain its 1944 record as fifth in the Nation. Average production of grapes for the 10-years between 1934 and 1943 was 17,590 tons, and the 1945 crop is 10,790 tons below that average.

Soil Commission Studies Work of State Agencies

IN ORDER to determine the amount and kind of cooperation that can be given by other State departments, boards and commissions interested in conservation, the State Soil Conservation Commission on October 11 reviewed informal reports from several such agencies.

Reports were received from the State Departments of Highways, Mines, Forests and Waters, and the State Fish Commission. These studies will be continued by the Soil Conservation Commission in order that provisions of the new 1945 soil conservation law might be utilized for maximum benefit to all agencies concerned with conservation and to county soil conservation districts when they are organized

Chairman Horst reported to the commission on his meetings in recent weeks with farmers and land owners of Crawford and Fulton Counties. In keeping with the policy of the State Commission, these meetings were sponsored by Boards of County Commissioners only for purposes of explaining provisions of the new law and how a county district can be established by resolution of the county commissioners.

He said that at both meetings, in Meadeville and McConnellsburg, large audiences were interested in operation of the law.

It was announced that copies of the Soil Conservation Law of 1945 had been sent to all Boards of County Commissioners in the State, with a letter explaining the part that these officials have in the organization of county districts.

The Commission set December 18 for its next regular meeting in Harrisburg.

Tobacco Gains

AFTER starting late in what at first appeared to be a rather poor cigar leaf tobacco year, Pennsylvania growers succeeded in puling their seedleaf crops through to the extent that estimated production is now less than half a million pounds under the big 1944 crop. Production is reported to be about 7,500,000 pounds higher than the July 1 estimate, and assures a better than average supply for the manufacture of cigars.

Latest surveys show a 1945 production of seedleaf tobacco totaling 51,976,000 pounds compared with last year's crop of 52,416,000 pounds. Pennsylvania Havana Seed tobacco will total 471,000 pounds, only 6,000 under 1944 production. Seedleaf yield per acre is 1,460 pounds compared with 1,560 last year. Tobacco made the best growth of the season during September.

Hay Yields High

YIELDS of hay are higher than usual this year but the quality is somewhat lower. In some sections hay crops could not be harvested due to lack of labor and machinery. Pastures, much improved by September rains, by the end of the month were still yielding a goodly percentage of feed.

Production of tame hay this year on Keystone State farms is now estimated at 3,435,000 tons which is 23,000 tons higher than September 1 estimates. Compared with last year the crop will be 219,000 tons greater, and it also will exceed the 10-year average production, 1934-1943, by 389,000 tons. The yield per acre this year is 1.51 tons compared with 1.44 last year and the average of 1.3 tons.

PA1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, October 25, 1945 | No. 43

Committee Hopes For Return of Big Farm Show in '47

HOPE that the Pennsylvania State Farm Show would return to its pre-war exhibit proportions in the 10-acre Farm Show Building and arena by January 1947 was held by members of the State Farm Show Committee at their regular fall meeting on October 11.

While there is yet no indication from U. S. Army officials as to when they will remove airplane repair activities from the building, Secretary Horst, Chairman of the Farm Show Committee, said that as soon as the leased building is turned back to the State preparations will start for the event which annually attracts more than 10,000 exhibits and half a million people. The last exhibit show was in January 1942 and the Secretary expressed belief that it might be resumed in 1947.

Close to 25 state-wide farm organizations reported through delegate members that their associations would participate in the 1946 Farm Show Week educational meetings to be sponsored by the State Farm Show Commission next January 22, 23 and 24. Groups requested meeting room facilities for sessions ranging from half a day to the three full days. More than 50 delegates attended.

Three additional farm organizations were admitted to membership in the State Farm Show Committee: The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association; the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association; and the Pennsylvania Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association.

The State Farm Show Commission met October 12 when Secretary Horst declared preparations must be made for a record attendance of farmers and farm women at the Commission-sponsored Farm Show Week educational meetings next January.

It probably will be the largest gathering of rural people in Pennsylvania since the last regular Farm Show with livestock and commercial exhibits in 1942, he declared. Educational meetings in January of 1944 drew over 5,000 farmers and last January more than 4,000 were in attendance.

According to a preliminary survey of delegates from most of the 45 member groups of the State Farm Show Committee, taken at the meeting, opportunity to discuss post-war problems may bring six to eight thousand to Harrisburg for the three-day sessions. Approximately 25 state-wide farm organizations are planning annual or special meetings.

"The biggest job the Commission has right now is to arrange for adequate meeting room for enlarged attendances," Secretary Horst said. "Both the Farm Show Committee and Commission are anticipating that the next big show with exhibits and contests in the Farm Show Building will be staged in January of 1947. We are working toward that objective even though the Army still occupies the building and it will take six months or more to restore it for show purposes. Military officials have given no indication as to when they will vacate."

Strong Organizations and United Effort are Needed for Post-War Agriculture Goal

ONLY through united effort and action will American farmers be able to come through the post-war period and attain agriculture's goal of "a rightful place and a just share in our national economy as a basic industry," Secretary Horst declared in an address at the annual meeting of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association at Syracuse, N. Y., on October 18. Dairy farmer members were present from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and some New England States.

To reach agriculture's post-war goal he said "we need strong farm organizations that will work together . . . that are industry-minded as well as concerned with their own immediate group."

After outlining possible forthcoming changes in American agriculture, chiefly in marketing farm products, Secretary Horst declared:

"This is certainly no time for the farmer to take a pessimistic or defeatist attitude toward conditions that will confront him in the immediate future. Neither pessimism or defeatism, or even worse—indifference—will get him out of tough situations.

"These trying times call for the best thought of our people, for dynamic leadership, for courage to venture into new spheres of activity and new approaches to the things that trouble us at the moment."

Within relatively a few years the country has swung from a predominantly agricultural nation to a predominantly industrial nation, Secretary Horst explained, and "the effects of this change are evidenced in National policies and legislation."

Changes Ahead

Among changes immediately ahead he listed the influence of returning war veterans on national thinking, internal migration of civilian workers, speeding up transportation of farm produce through the use of airplanes, expansion of highway and railroad services, forward trends in quick freezing, dehydration, and new packaging of food to meet consumer demands.

"All indications," he said, "point to a discriminating market ahead. The consumer will be more grade- and quality-conscious. It will be more difficult to sell lower grade products in the normal market. To save loss to the producer other uses must be found."

Reduction of government control of agriculture to services that will help farmers to help themselves was advocated by the Pennsylvania farm leader. He said farmers and farm organizations in the past decade were forced to seek emergency aid from government and "too frequently with the encouragement of public officials the resultant legislation was made permanent" and government bureaus and agencies "assumed more and more power and dictation in the determination of farm policies and programs."

Encourage Self-Help

The spirit of government, he added, "should be not more and more control, but to encourage farmers to help themselves through their own organizations and through research and education directed toward putting all agriculture on its own feet." The pattern of recent government activities "reflects upon the forcefulness of our farm organizations," he declared, adding "it also indicates the degree of passiveness fostered by a growing dependence on government."

Post-war changes will include some that will bring about over-production in some lines, Secretary Horst said. "There will be dislocations in markets, new competitions and price adjustments. Meeting them will require all the resourcefulness and ingenuity of our farmers and of our farm leadership," he continued. The most serious of changed conditions will come at the end of a period when the government set prices and sales were easy and "we need be seriously concerned that our willpower and our ability to fight have not been weakened."

Working against immediate achievement of agriculture's goal in the Northeastern states is the smallness of family-sized farms that predominate in the area, the speaker pointed out. The answer there lies in the pooling of strength in cooperative organizations, a step already demonstrated as successful in the Dairymen's League Cooperative, he declared.

"We must use the highest type of strategy—clean, vigorous and effective, but there must be unity of effort and a high type of coordinated team-work," the Secretary said.

Corn Borer Damage Heavier This Year

PRELIMINARY surveys by the Department, covering the spread and damage in Pennsylvania this year by the European corn borer, reveal that the heaviest infestation was in Philadelphia County.

Pest damage was generally heavier this year than last in both the southeastern double brood area and the western and northwestern single brood sections.

Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, on the basis of incomplete survey returns, said that infestation this year in southeastern counties has approached 1943 levels, highest since the borer began its destructive work in that part of the State.

Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, Berks, Montgomery and Bucks Counties, in addition to Philadelphia, suffered the greatest damage from corn borers this year, early reports show. Infestation in corn fields and gardens in Philadelphia County will average approximately 93 per cent. In the other counties mentioned, anywhere from 75 to 90 of every 100 corn stalks examined by field agents of the Bureau were found to be infested with borers. The average number of borers contained in each stalk is expected to run higher than in 1944, Dr. Guyton said.

Although final returns from the State survey may not show much new territory invaded this year by the corn borer, many counties on the fringe of the westward advance of double generation insects are expected to show heavier infestation than in either of the past two years, the Bureau chief explained. Wet weather aided borer development this year, whereas last year dry weather retarded development, he added.

"I strongly urge every Victory and backyard gardener to clean up and burn all corn stalks, heavy stemmed plants and weeds before snow flies," Dr. Guyton said. He explained this will destroy the borers that otherwise would live over winter and be ready to multiply in great numbers next summer. He recommended that farmers shred all fodder from infested fields or be sure to plow it down to a depth of at least six inches before next mid-April.

STRAWBERRY ACREAGE UP

HOPE for more Pennsylvania strawberries in 1946 than the rather slim crop harvested this year is held following a Federal-State survey of grower estimates of acreage plans for next year.

Early reports show that commercial strawberry growers will add at least 300 acres to the 3,100 acres which they harvested this year when heavy frosts killed large percentages of the blossoms. The 1946 acreage still will be below the 10-year 1935-44 average of 3,860 for this State, however.

ASPARAGUS ACRES SAME

EARLY reports from asparagus growers of Pennsylvania show that they have not increased their acreage for next year. According to a recent Federal-State survey, 30 per cent of the 2,300 acres for harvesting in 1946 is made up of beds under 5 years old, 60 per cent 5 to 10 years old, and 10 per cent over 10 years old. Acreage in New Jersey is expected to be increased by 500 acres.

PA1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, November 1, 1945 | No. 44

Labor Shortage Is Most Serious Known in State

STILL paying the highest wages ever known in the State, farmers of Pennsylvania this fall have been up against a more acute shortage of labor than they experienced at any time during the war, Secretary Horst declared recently. He said there is evidence to believe the situation is "the worst ever experienced in the State."

Some contributing factors were listed as follows:

1. A let-down in enthusiasm of town and city people, now that the war is over, in giving farmers a helping hand in emergencies, especially for fall harvests;
2. A slower movement "back to the land" than was anticipated for those who left farms for jobs in war industries, many of whom apparently have decided to stay in the cities;
3. Shorter daylight hours which prevent school boys and girls from working on farms except on Saturdays;
4. Slow return of war veterans to farms and difficulty experienced by farmer fathers in getting their sons discharged to help with the farm work.

"This experience," said Secretary Horst, "is teaching farmers to rely more and more on mechanization. As soon as new machines are available more of our family-sized farms will have power implements and I see a time not too far distant when the same amount or more food can be produced on Pennsylvania farms with far less labor than we have now."

In a recent Federal-State survey it was found that as of October 1 total farm employment in the Middle Atlantic States was 636,000 family and hired workers. This was 66,000 less than on September 1 and 41,000 below October 1 a year ago.

The Secretary estimated that this State has approximately 45 per cent of the Middle Atlantic figure, or approximately 285,000, the lowest farm employment status ever known for this season of the year. Nationally, farm employment on October 1 was 7 per cent lower than a year ago.

With one exception, October 1 farm wage rates in Pennsylvania were the same as on July 1. October rates were: $64.00 per month with board; $93.25 per month without board; $3.75 per day with board, an advance of 5 cents from July; $4.60 per day without board.

More Prisoners of War

In efforts to overcome the labor shortage, farmers have increased their requests for prisoners of war for all harvest operations. As of October 1 close to 1,500 prisoners were engaged in farm work and late in the month the total was more than 2,000. Approximately 1,000 were helping at food processing plants, according to information available to the Department.

Prisoners of war were being used to husk corn, strip tobacco, dig potatoes and various other late harvest season farm duties. In many instances prisoners of war and foreign workers have been the means of saving great portions of many crops.

Jamaicans employed on Pennsylvania farms October 1 totaled 599, Bahamians 30, and Newfoundlanders 81, according to Federal-State surveys.

Through government surveys it was learned that farm workers placed by the extension service placement program between January 1 and August 31 totaled 32,738 compared with 25,506 for the same period in 1944. In August there were 16,445 such placements, more than twice as many as in the same month last year.

The Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations will hold its annual meeting in Harrisburg December 18, with an afternoon meeting and evening banquet at the Penn Harris Hotel.

GOOD QUALITY CELERY FOR THANKSGIVING PEAK

ADDING their bit to Thanksgiving dinner menus for which Pennsylvania farmers will have an all-time record number of turkeys available, vegetable growers are coming through with the best crop of celery since 1942.

More than 40 per cent larger than last year's crop, celery in mid-October was moving in good volume from the southeastern commercial vegetable farm areas, and growers expect offerings to be at peak for the Thanksgiving holiday period, according to a Federal-State survey of truck crop conditions covering the first half of October.

In addition to the State's record production of 1,670,000 turkeys this year, 30 per cent higher than 1944, cranberries will be more plentiful, and generous supplies of other Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner items except pumpkins will be available, it was said.

Fall vegetable harvesting is being delayed in some areas due to continuing labor shortages, especially on the smaller truck farms, where digging of beets is progressing slowly.

Heavy losses of late summer crops were suffered by some vegetable growers in western Pennsylvania counties through lack of markets brought about by a strike at the Pittsburgh produce yards, the report stated.

The widespread frosts of early October put an end to the tomato harvest. Wet weather and lack of sufficient sunshine to ripen them reduced tomato yields considerably this past season. Heavy frosts on the mornings of October 3, 4, 11 and 15 finished all summer vegetable crops, the Department said.

Much of the late harvest of carrots will be held for winter markets from farm storages. The quality of spinach was reported "very good."

Harvesting of late Danish cabbage was advancing in all areas as rapidly as weather and labor conditions would permit. Supplies were heavy but demand slow, especially in the western counties.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION GREATER THAN LAST YEAR

GROWING conditions for cabbage have been excellent in Pennsylvania and are resulting in much greater production than last year, according to a recent survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Production of early fall Danish cabbage is now indicated at 18,500 tons compared with 15,000 last year, even though the acreage of 1,950 is 50 less than in 1944. Harvesting will continue into November. October 1 indications were for a national crop 58 per cent greater than last year.

Production of carrots, celery and fall spinach in Pennsylvania this year will be larger than last. Carrots are now estimated at 900,000 bushels compared with 630,000 harvested in 1944. Celery production is placed at 198,000 half-crates compared with 138,000 last year. Production of fall spinach is estimated at 682,000 bushels compared with only 400,000 in 1944.

FIRST IN BUCKWHEAT

PENNSYLVANIA is heading for first place in the production of buckwheat for 1945, according to Federal-State surveys. Latest reports indicate 2,460,000 bushels from this year's crop, compared with 2,940,000 last year and the 10-year average of 2,406,000 bushels from 1934 to 1943. Production in New York this year is estimated at 2,244,000 bushels. Pennsylvania ranked first in 1941, was second to New York in 1942 and 1943, but regained first place in 1944 and is expected to hold it again this year when final estimates are made. Yield per acre this year is 20 bushels, the same as last, and 1 bushel higher than average. Buckwheat is the only grain crop in this state for which total production this year will be lower than in 1944.

Honey Crop Tops Production for Past Three Years

TOPPING all production for the past 3 years, beekeepers of Pennsylvania this year harvested what amounts to a bumper crop of more than 3,250 tons, according to a preliminary state-wide survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The honey season started late and lasted longer than usual, beekeepers report. Despite adverse weather throughout much of the season many beekeepers in various sections of the State said it was the best quality crop in years, especially in the northeast section.

The 1945 Pennsylvania honey crop totals 6,516,000 pounds. It is 404,000 pounds more than last year, 260,000 pounds over 1943 production and 2,716,000 pounds more than the small crop of 1942, an unusually wet year.

The crop was gathered by 181,000 colonies of bees, 10,000 fewer than in 1944. However, the yield per colony this year was 36 pounds, 4 more than the greater number of colonies averaged in the previous year.

Quality of the early crop was high but much of the late was extremely dark. Up to October 1 the late flow of goldenrod and aster was continuing. Much clover had been cut in some localities before bees had become active. Many colonies weak in the spring were in excellent condition for the fall flow which was generally heavy in the northern and central buckwheat-producing areas.

SURVEY COVERS WAGES AND HOURS FOR PEACH WORKERS

AS PART of a national survey of farm labor conditions, special studies have been completed in parts of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and reveal that peach harvest workers this fall earned an average of 47 cents an hour and $29.30 a week on farms included in the survey conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

The sample survey, which was one of hundreds being conducted throughout the United States, covered 885 workers employed in harvesting peaches during the week ended September 1. The workers averaged $4.50 per day, some picking peaches, others packing the fruit. Nearly all were paid at an hourly rate, 67 per cent receiving 50 cents an hour. The peach workers averaged 9.7 hours a day and 6.5 days a week, or 63 hours a week on the farms enumerated.

Of the workers surveyed, 75 per cent were men. Of all workers 79 per cent were white and 21 per cent were Negro. Of the workers reporting age, 38 per cent were between 18 and 44, and 12 per cent were under 18.

The studies are being made in recognition of the need of farmers, farm laborers, and State and Federal agencies for information relating to labor problems.

SEE SHORTAGE AHEAD IN SOME GARDEN SEEDS

ACCORDING to surveys by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, production of 18 out of 22 of the Nation's important kinds of vegetable seeds is indicated to be smaller this year than last.

The largest percentage decreases anticipated are for spinach, cauliflower, Swiss chard, rutabaga, cabbage, loose-leaf lettuce, carrot and garden beet. Production of these 8 seeds this year is expected to be one-fifth to one-half as large as last year. The Department suggests that vegetable growers plan to order seeds for 1946 planting as early as possible.

Production of onion, cucumber and radish seed is reported to be larger this year than last.

PA 1.29/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, November 8, 1945 | No. 45

European Corn Borer Infestation Much Heavier This Year, Survey Reveals

OUT OF 33 Pennsylvania counties surveyed this fall by the Bureau of Plant Industry to determine the extent of infestation by the European corn borer, only five showed a decrease from last year. All others experienced heavier occurrence of the pest, ranging from less than 1 per cent to 44 per cent, according to Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, Bureau chief.

Heaviest infestation for the entire State was in Philadelphia where agents of the Bureau found an average of 7.8 borers per stalk in 93.4 of every 100 stalks of corn examined. Delaware County was a close second with 90.8 per cent infestation, and Chester third with borers in 83.7 of each 100 stalks examined. In Bucks County, where the two-generation corn borer first made its appearance in Pennsylvania in 1938, infestation this year was 74.7 per cent compared with 59.8 last year and 95.4 in 1943.

In the Western Pennsylvania single-generation territory, which was first infested in 1919 at Erie County, decreases in infestation were shown in Armstrong, Crawford and Indiana Counties only.

The most serious increases this year over last came in the two-generation borer area, roughly south and east of the mountains. To determine the extent of borer spread to new territory, agents visited six additional counties this year, finding none in Bedford, Somerset and Fulton, 3 per cent in Allegheny, 4.6 in Snyder and the heavy infestation in Philadelphia County which was not surveyed last year but was known to have had the pest since about 1939.

Dr. Guyton urges all farmers in the infested counties to cooperate in plowing down, shredding or otherwise destroying all corn fodder and heavy weeds, and home gardners to destroy all plant refuse by mid-April to help control the pest which in 1944 caused more than $1,000,000 loss to sweet corn crops alone.

Data on borer infestation surveys for 1943, 1944 and 1945 follows:

EUROPEAN CORN BORER INFESTATION—1943, 1944, 1945

County	1943 Infested Stalks In 100	1943 Av. No. Borers Per Stalk	1944 Infested Stalks In 100	1944 Av. No. Borers Per Stalk	1945 Infested Stalks In 100	1945 Av. No. Borers Per Stalk
Adams	19.1	2.75	3.4	1.0	34.9	1.9
Allegheny	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.0
Armstrong	1.9	1.0	6.3	1.0	2.9	1.0
Bedford	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Berks	63.8	3.3	34.9	2.5	75.6	3.2
Bucks	95.4	13.2	59.8	3.1	74.7	5.7
Butler	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.0
Centre	18.9	1.32	5.7	1.0	19.7	1.1
Chester	80.9	9.85	61.5	4.0	83.7	6.0
Crawford	33.4	1.15	13.0	1.1	11.7	1.1
Cumberland	17.0	1.9	7.0	1.4	24.6	2.1
Dauphin	32.5	2.55	11.0	1.9	55.5	3.9
Delaware	80.09	12.0	77.3	4.7	90.8	6.7
Erie	62.7	3.9	14.6	1.4	30.8	1.7
Franklin	6.3	1.0	2.1	1.0	5.3	1.4
Fulton	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Indiana	2.2	1.0	2.4	1.0	2.3	1.0
Juniata	5.7	2.3	9.0	2.2	2.1	1.0
Lancaster	97.7	3.4	32.6	3.1	75.7	3.6
Lawrence	5.4	1.0	4.5	1.0	6.0	1.0
Lebanon	35.3	2.3	16.2	2.2	49.7	3.8
Lehigh	54.6	3.1	37.7	2.4	66.4	2.5
Lycoming	7.5	1.0	11.0	1.5	13.9	1.4
Mercer	26.7	1.91	9.7	1.6	19.1	1.2
Montgomery	80.18	10.0	56.6	4.5	83.9	4.8
Northampton	75.6	3.5	53.3	2.3	62.0	2.7
Perry	13.1	2.2	15.1	1.9	21.1	2.6
Philadelphia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	93.4	7.8
Snyder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	1.0
Somerset	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Union	7.5	3.75	7.5	1.2	5.4	1.1
Westmoreland	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
York	40.4	2.5	40.8	2.6	54.4	3.7

Turkey Supply to Extend Beyond Holidays

NOT ONLY will there be plenty of Pennsylvania turkeys for holiday dinners, but the supply is ample to provide for the rapidly developing family custom of buying another or several turkeys for use in the late winter months.

Turkey growers of the State—sensing the increasing "before and after holiday" demand created in pre-war years by hotels and restaurants in featuring the big birds on menus from September through spring and even summer months—are prepared to meet consumer requests with the biggest turkey crop in the history of the State. Production this year totals 1,670,000 birds, 30 per cent higher than 1944 and the fourth consecutive year the Pennsylvania crop has passed the million mark.

Many Keystone farmers are growing turkeys in numbers for the first time this year, with the result that the State ranks eighth in the Nation and first east of the Mississippi River, in the number produced. California leads with 4,942,000 of the national record total of slightly more than 44 million birds.

This year's plentiful supply is traced directly to increased production and a great decrease in Army requirements following the end of the war.

Pennsylvania consumer preference for the smaller sized turkeys still prevails, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division of the Department's Bureau of Markets. To make the supply agree with demand, many families will have to forego desire for hens and buy tom turkeys. However, the greater percentage of birds available for holiday dinners are less than 10 months old, all young and tender, he assured.

LESS CORN IN STORAGE THIS YEAR THAN LAST

LESS corn and barley, but more oats and rye were being held on off-farm positions October 1 this year compared with the same date last year according to a Federal-State survey.

Wheat stored in all positions, on and off farms, on October 1 totalled nearly 17 million bushels out of the national total of more than 1 billion bushels. Wheat held on Pennsylvania farms on that date amounted to 12,582,000 bushels. Off-farm holdings totaled 4,403,000 bushels, including 855,000 in interior mills, elevators and warehouses and slightly more than a million bushels in merchant mills. The remainder was in commercial terminals and bins of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Shelled and ear corn reported in off-farm positions on October 1 totalled 207,000 bushels compared with 240,000 last year. Oats holdings in these positions amounted to 680,000 bushels compared with 565,000 a year earlier; barley, 170,000 bushels compared with 180,000; rye, 74,000 bushels against only 40,000 a year ago.

Corn Crop First Since '25 to Pass 60 Million Bushels

THE FARM LABOR situation continued into November as the most serious ever experienced in the State, and greatly delayed the corn harvest.

The State corn crop, which according to the most recent estimates, will total 60,192,000 bushels, is the first to exceed the 60 million mark since 1925 when a high yield per acre netted a production of approximately 67 million bushels.

At current average prices for corn, the 1945 Pennsylvania crop is estimated to be worth more than $80,000,000 and will lead all other farm crops in value.

Favorable weather conditions and the fact that 68 per cent of all corn planted this year in the Keystone State was hybrid, are mostly responsible for the big 1945 crop. The record was achieved even though the total acreage devoted to the growing of corn this year was 3 per cent less than in 1944 when production was 53,580,000 bushels.

"Farmers are glad for the 60-million-bushel crop this year," Secretary Horst said, "and also for a bigger production of all small grains, except buckwheat, compared with last year. Already there are reports of a coming scarcity of livestock feeds for the feeding year which started October 1, and the more home-grown grains that we can produce the better off our farmers will be in Pennsylvania."

According to records of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, the average yield of corn per acre this year is 44 bushels, and that for the record crop in 1925 was 49.5 bushels.

Farm Prices Hold Steady in October

PRICES received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products remained fairly steady during the month from September 15 to October 15, a Federal-State Crop Survey revealed.

Although the average for potatoes dropped 10 cents a bushel, slightly higher prices received for grain crops, dairy products and fruits increased the index of prices 1 point during the period. The livestock and livestock products index remained unchanged for the second consecutive month, since a 9 point decline in meat animals was offset by a 5 point increase in dairy products. Wholesale milk at an average of $3.65 was the same as October 15 a year ago. Milk cows, horses and mules declined seasonally in price.

The purchasing power of the Pennsylvania farmer's dollar at $1.24, on the basis of the 1909-14 dollar being worth 100 cents, was the same as in September—but 2 cents higher than in October 1944.

Price indexes, based on 1909-14 prices as 100, on October 15 were 216 for all farm products and 213 for livestock and livestock products. Prices farmers pay for goods and services were 75 per cent higher than the 1909-14 average, an increase of 1 per cent over September 15 average and 5 per cent over October 15, 1944.

Some average prices received by Pennsylvania farmers October 15 were: potatoes, $1.60 per bushel; apples, $3.60 per bushel; chickens, 29.2 cents and turkeys 40 cents per pound, live weight; eggs, 52.7 cents per dozen.

PA 124/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DECEMBER

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, November 15, 1945 | No. 46

Buckwheat, Potatoes Show Production Drops, Survey Says

DECLINES in the indicated production of buckwheat and potatoes on Pennsylvania farms were reported in the November 1 general crop survey of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

October weather, averaging several degrees below normal, delayed harvest of corn, buckwheat, soybeans and potatoes, and in some localities occasioned heavy losses of these crops. Frosts during the month quite generally ended growth of vegetation. As the fruit harvest drew to a close it was apparent that final production would be even less than was anticipated earlier.

Seeding of winter grain was delayed from 2 to 4 weeks, but by November 1 was nearly complete in the southeast. In the north and west acreages were cut sharply below intentions as the ground was too wet to plow. Early wheat plantings generally look good.

Production of corn for the year still held at 60,192,000 bushels, the largest in Pennsylvania in 20 years. Winter wheat production remained unchanged from the October estimate of 20,446,000 bushels. Oats production is also the same as October, 25,590,000 bushels as are barley at 3,230,000 bushels and rye at 744,000 bushels. All grain crops except buckwheat are heavier than last year.

November 1 indications for buckwheat were for a crop of 2,214,000 bushels, or 246,000 less than on October 1. Relatively few potatoes were left undug by November 1. Sprayed fields yielded best, but production of 17,515,000 bushels will be 310,000 bushels less than was indicated on October 1.

Few soybeans have been harvested due to lack of help, inability to engage combines, or the pressure of other farm work. Yields, however, are expected to be better than for the past two years. November indications were for a tobacco crop of 52,447,000 pounds, the same as a month earlier. The hay crop remained unchanged at 3,435,000 tons.

Reductions were reported for 1945 production of commercial apples, pears and grapes.

State Ranks Sixth In Apple Production

EVEN THOUGH the commercial apple crop this year in Pennsylvania is the smallest in 24 years, production is sufficient to rank the Keystone State sixth among all the states, according to a recent state-wide survey of fruit production by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Scarcity of apples in markets and stores of the State is explained in the fact that 1945 production is only 2,470,000 bushels compared with 9,100,000 last year, and estimated at 19 per cent of a full crop. Wet weather caused fruit to drop until harvesting was completed, and some even began to rot on the trees, the survey report said. In most localities the percentage grading No. 1 in size was extremely small.

The only other year of record when fewer apples were produced in Pennsylvania was 1921 when production totaled only 1,860,000 bushels.

Pears failed to size as anticipated and the Keystone crop this year is only 120,000 bushels compared with 464,000 last year.

The peach crop of 1,222,000 bushels compares with 1,886,000 last year and the 1934-43 average of 1,601,000 bushels.

Pennsylvania grapes total only 6,000 tons compared with 19,500 tons in 1944.

National production of deciduous fruits this year is 13 per cent below 1944 and 3 per cent below average.

1946 MILK AND EGG OUTLOOK

Whole Milk Prices Will Be Lower

FOR THE 16th consecutive month, milk production on Pennsylvania farms in October exceeded production for the corresponding month of the previous year, according to a Federal-State report which said October production was 412,000,000 pounds, a new all-time record for that month.

As of November 1, diarymen of the State were feeding grain at a record rate for that date. The record October production of milk, while 4 per cent below September, was 2 per cent above October 1944.

Many herds were on full winter rations. Rains in the north and west improved pastures for going into the winter but furnished little feed for dairy cows. Hay and roughage were plentiful in most sections of the State but of poor quality and lacked feeding value due to the wet season. Dairy cows were reported to be healthy and generally in good condition to go into the winter months.

Supply and Demand Balance

The National supply of dairy products in 1946, except for butter, is expected to be reasonably well in balance with demand, the Federal-State report said. The average price for whole milk may be slightly lower than in 1945, assuming continuance of current price ceilings, particularly for butter.

Military purchases will be greatly reduced, but this will not mean much net reduction in total demand, as returning servicemen will be added to the civilian population.

The report said that returns to farmers for whole milk and butterfat nationally will be moderately lower in 1946 than in 1945. The actual level will depend largely upon government action with respect to subsidies and price ceilings in 1946. Dairy production payments to farmers have been announced through the first quarter, and funds have been provided for such payments through next June 30.

Cheese supplies in 1946 will be adequate to meet demand at about present prices. Prices for whole milk are expected to decline. Civilian consumption of fluid milk and cream probably will be slightly less per person. Per capita consumption of most manufactured whole milk products will be at new heights, it was said.

Grape Crop Only 24 Pct. This Year

ACCORDING to latest Federal-State estimates, grape production in Pennsylvania declined 800 tons from October indications. Clusters in the Erie fruit belt, where most are grown, were small and straggly, with many cracked and shelled berries.

A survey made as of November 1 shows a preliminary estimate of 6,000 tons of grapes for the 1945 crop. This production is less than one-third of the 1944 crop of 19,500 tons, and is 11,590 tons below the average for the 10-year period, 1934 to 1943.

Cold, cloudy weather delayed ripening of grapes this year in the Erie belt. The crop is also short in New York, Ohio and Michigan. Production in these states and Pennsylvania was 58 per cent under the 1944 crop. Pennsylvania production is estimated to be only 24 per cent of a full crop this year.

Forecast Support Prices for Eggs

ALTHOUGH the number of layers on Pennsylvania farms was 15 per cent greater in October than in the previous month, production of 152,000,000 eggs was only 1 per cent over September due to seasonal declines, says a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Production for the month of October was 11 per cent below that for the same month in 1944.

Feed costs were increasing and in some localities corn and wheat for grain feeding were hard to obtain, the report said. Commercial poultrymen in October were paying about 4 per cent more per 100 pounds for feed and receiving about 13 per cent more for eggs per dozen compared with October 1944.

Feed costs advanced 1 per cent over September and eggs advanced .013 cents per dozen, causing the egg-feed ratio to decline 1 point from September 1. The average price received per dozen was 53.7 cents.

For the first 10 months of 1945 egg production in Pennsylvania was 2,109,000,000, or 13 per cent less than the record production for the same period during 1944.

The National Forecast

Reviewing the National poultry and egg outlook, the report said prices received by farmers for eggs in 1946 may be at or near support levels during most months, in contrast to the situation during most of 1945 when prices were at ceilings.

All demand factors, except possibly demand for exports, will be weaker in 1946, at was said.

Demand for chicken and turkey is expected to weaken in 1946, primarily because of reduced military takings and increased civilian supplies of red meats.

Poultry meat will be somewhat less plentiful in relation to demand than in the case of eggs. Chicken and turkey meat supplies for civilians in 1946 may not be much different from 1945, according to present indications. Consumption of chicken may remain at the relatively high 1944 and 1945 level of about 24 pounds per person.

Tobacco Totals 52 Million Pounds

ESTIMATED production of 51,976,000 pounds of Pennsylvania Seedleaf, or cigar filler tobacco, announced in an October 1 Federal-State survey, remained unchanged in the November 1 report issued through the State Department of Agriculture.

Lancaster County tobacco was mostly housed before severe frosts came, but a sizable acreage in northern townships of the county was damaged. The late crop in the county showed rust, but not so much as in some other recent years, growers reported. Curing is variable, the early crops being generally satisfactory but many of the late were dark and showed some pole burn.

Production of Havana Seed tobacco will be 471,000 pounds, latest reports reveal. With few exceptions, this type of tobacco is curing nicely, it was said.

Increasing numbers of Boards of County Commissioners are requesting information about organization of Soil Conservation Districts under the Act of 1945.

Keep the dates open . . .

FARM SHOW WEEK MEETINGS

January 22, 23, and 24, 1946

P11 L24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
Documents

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, November 22, 1945 | No. 47

Department Holds Exhibit to Observe 50th Anniversary

BECAUSE of the war emergency, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture planned no formal observance this year of the 50th anniversary of its establishment as a separate division of State government. Through an exhibit of current duties and activities shown November 13 to 17 in the rotunda of the Capitol building, 50 years of service to farmers and to consumers were featured. The Golden Anniversary display attracted hundreds of visitors. It was held in conjunction with exhibits by other departments and agencies of State government.

Secretary Horst is the eleventh man to hold that office since the Department was set up in 1895 under Governor Daniel H. Hastings. Prior to that time agricultural and food laws were administered through various other divisions of State Government.

In 1876 a first attempt was made to establish a separate department with creation of a State Board of Agriculture. This Board was a central agency largely concerned with overseeing the numerous agricultural societies which by that time had been organized in various parts of the State. The Board appointed its own secretary, forerunner of appointments to the office by the Governor, as authorized in 1895.

In 1915 a Commission on Agriculture was created. It had no power other than to approve the appointment of officers and employees of the Department. Both Board and Commission were abolished in 1919 by an act which reorganized the Department.

The Administrative Code of 1923 further centered within the Department the enforcement of State laws pertaining to health of livestock, meat inspection, control of plant insect pests and diseases, wholesome foods, and food marketing into Bureaus of Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Foods and Chemistry, and Markets.

Eleven Secretaries of Agriculture

First Secretary of Agriculture was Thomas J. Edge, who was commissioned March 21, 1895. He was succeeded on April 24, 1899 by John Hamilton, who was the first deputy secretary and for many years treasurer of the Pennsylvania State College. Hamilton resigned February 18, 1903 and six days later was succeeded by N. B. Critchfield who held office until Charles E. Patton was commissioned October 15, 1915. Critchfield was Secretary for more than 12 years or longer than any other individual. Dr. Frederick Rasmussen, then head of the dairy husbandry department at Penn State, was commissioned Secretary of Agriculture May 8, 1919. Others were commissioned as follows: F. P. Willits, January 16, 1923; Charles G. Jordan, January 18, 1927; John A. McSparran, January 20, 1931; J. Hansel French, January 15, 1935; John H. Light, January 17, 1939; Miles Horst, January 19, 1943.

Anniversary Exhibit

In observance of the 50th anniversary of its founding in 1895, the November display of the Department of Agriculture featured activities and duties covering half a century of service to farmers and consumers. In front of two large pictorial displays of typical Pennsylvania farm scenes the Bureaus of Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Markets, and Foods and Chemistry displayed their major services through exhibits and Keystone-shaped plaques. Included were progress in control of diseases of farm animals, and plants; insect control; food and fertilizer analysis; food marketing and processing.

Women visitors were attracted by a display of "Your Markets of Tomorrow" which included cellophane-wrapped consumer packs of fruits and vegetables. The neatly wrapped packs where the consumer can see every apple and washed, trimmed vegetables ready for the pot, are still in the experimental stage for sale under refrigeration, and Department officials explained that this newest development in food marketing probably will be in general vogue within a year or two. This marketing service experiment is described in the current **Reader's Digest** and a recent issue of the **Saturday Evening Post.**

Central in the display were moving figures showing that Pennsylvania ranks first among all states in the production of mushrooms, buckwheat, cigar leaf tobacco, turkeys (East of the Mississippi River), spring and fall spinach, nursery-grown Christmas trees, producer-retailed milk; first in manufacture of ice cream, Philadelphia cream cheese, sausage and scrapple; first in number of chick hatcheries, apples graded for processing, number of carbonated beverage plants, and the value of crops grown under glass, as shown in adjoining columns.

Attention was called to the fact that Pennsylvania now has the largest apple processing plant in the world; the largest grape juice plant in the world; the largest package ice cream plant in the world, and the largest State Farm Show Building in the world under one roof.

1895 - - FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE - - 1945

To Farmers . . . To Consumers

ORGANIZED in 1895, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has served farmers and consumers for half a century. It is essentially a service agency created by legislative enactment to deal with administrative, regulatory, and investigational problems through enforcement of various laws having to do with the health of livestock and poultry, control of plant insects and diseases, the preparation, marketing and sale of food for humans, feeds for livestock, fertilizers, insecticides, etc.

Farmers of Pennsylvania have done a magnificent job in producing record amounts of food during the war years. Food processing plants have broken all known records. In more than a dozen fields Pennsylvania now leads all other States in the United States in the production or value of farm products and processed foods.

* * *

●Through the efforts of farmers the Commonwealth in 1944 ranked—

FIRST in the production of MUSHROOMS—20,000,000 pounds
FIRST in production of BUCKWHEAT—2,940,000 bushels
FIRST in production of CIGAR LEAF TOBACCO—52,893,000 pounds
FIRST in production of TURKEYS (East of Mississippi River)—1,670,000 birds
FIRST in production of Spring and Fall SPINACH—1,237,000 bushels
FIRST in production of Nursery-grown CHRISTMAS TREES
FIRST in production of PRODUCER-RETAILED MILK—235,000,000 quarts
FIRST in the number of BABY CHICK HATCHERIES—636
FIRST in the volume of APPLES State-graded for processing—135,000,000 pounds
FIRST in the value of CROPS GROWN UNDER GLASS—$9,074,212 (1939)

* * *

●In food processing Pennsylvania ranks—

FIRST in the manufacture of ICE CREAM—197,876,000 quarts in 1944
FIRST in the manufacture of PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE
FIRST in the manfacture of SAUSAGE
FIRST in the manufacture of SCRAPPLE
FIRST in the number of CARBONATED BEVERAGE and STILL DRINK PLANTS—909

* * *

●Pennsylvania now has the—

LARGEST Apple Processing Plant in the World (Biglerville, Adams County)
LARGEST Grape Juice Plant in the World (North East, Erie County)
LARGEST Package Ice Cream Plant in the World (Harrisburg, Dauphin County)
LARGEST State Farm Show Building in the World under one roof (Harrisburg)

* * *

●Pennsylvania was the—

FIRST to pass MEAT INSPECTION LAWS
FIRST to establish LIVESTOCK SANITARY SERVICE

* * *

●Among all Counties of the United States, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania—

LEADS in the value of ALL FARM CROPS (non-irrigated) and
LEADS in the value of FARM CROPS USED BY FARM HOUSEHOLDS

PA1.24/4

Pennsylvania State
Library

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, November 29, 1945 | No. 48

Announce Groups To Meet During Farm Show Week

MORE THAN twenty state-wide agricultural associations have notified Secretary Horst that they will participate in the annual State Farm Show Week educational meetings next January 22, 23 and 24.

For the fourth consecutive year the meetings will be conducted without the added attraction of exhibits and contests in the big Farm Show Building. The Farm Show Commission, which is sponsoring the coming meetings, is hopeful that the Army will vacate the Farm Show Building in time for its reconversion for a pre-war type of Farm Show in January 1947.

Meeting Days Set

While the 1946 Farm Show Week formal opening is scheduled for the Forum of the Education Building on Tuesday evening, January 22, a number of farm organizations will start their annual meetings on Tuesday morning or afternoon. These include the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, State Horticultural Association, Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association, Future Farmers of America, Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association, Hereford Cattle Breeders Association, and the six swine breeders associations.

On Wednesday, January 23, sessions will be held by the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania, the Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association, the Ayrshire Breeders Association, Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, Guernsey Breeders Association, Pennsylvania Holstein Association, Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club, Pennsylvania Livestock Breeders Association, Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Association, State Beekeepers Association, and the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

Expect 6,000 Farm People

The Country Life Association will hold its meeting Thursday afternoon, January 24, and the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association will meet that morning and afternoon. Groups that will continue meetings through the third day include the horticultural, vegetable and potato growers, and the Future Farmers.

With travel restrictions lifted, Secretary Horst, who is chairman of the State Farm Show Commission, expects an attendance of 6,000 to 7,000 farm people for meetings that will devote considerable time to post-war problems in agriculture.

WOODPECKERS FEAST ON EUROPEAN CORN BORERS

LONG a friend of the farmer because it destroys harmful insects, the downey woodpecker has added another Pennsylvania farm insect pest to its menu, having been found digging European corn borer worms out of corn stalks.

A representative of the Bureau of Plant Industry, State Department of Agriculture, during the annual fall survey of corn borer infestations in 33 counties, heard a woodpecker banging away on a corn stalk in Lebanon County and observed the bird for a short period as it punched holes in the stalk, pulled out and devoured living corn borer caterpillars.

The corn borer survey revealed that infestation this year was far worse than in 1944 and nearly as bad as the peak year of 1943. Advocated control measures to keep the pest from doing greater damage in 1946 include shredding, burning or plowing down all corn stalks and other heavy-stemmed plants and weeds in the infested areas prior to next mid-April, Bureau officials said.

NUMBER OF FARMS

THE INCREASE of 9,372 farms in Pennsylvania, reported by the United States Bureau of the Census for the 5-year period, 1940 to 1945, has occasioned some degree of surprise among agricultural leaders of the State. It had been generally believed that there was a shrinkage in the total number of farms during the war years due to many farmers quitting to go into war industries, and to the shortage of help and farm machinery.

No official explanation of the 5.5 per cent increase from 169,027 farms in 1940 to 178,399 farms enumerated in the January 1945 agricultural census is offered by the Census Bureau at Washington.

State Department of Agriculture statisticians call attention to the fact that since the turn of the century there has been a steady decrease in the number of farms in Pennsylvania. They say comparison of 1930 and 1940 censuses with those of 1935 and 1945 gives evidence that the downward trend has been accentuated.

Farm facts presented in the last four censuses show the number of farms and the farm acreages as follows:

1930—172,419	farms;	15,309,485 acres.
1935—191,284	farms;	15,855,343 acres.
1940—169,027	farms;	14,594,134 acres.
1945—178,399	farms;	15,382,360 acres.

POTATO GROWERS ARE REPAID FOR SPRAYING

COMMERCIAL potato growers of Pennsylvania, after struggling through one of the most damaging blight and bad weather seasons experienced in many years, have been well repaid for their efforts of persistent spraying by realizing yields which in most cases were higher than expected, Secretary Horst said following a Federal-State preliminary survey of 1945 spud production on Pennsylvania farms.

This year's Keystone State potato crop is now estimated at 17,515,000 bushels, lowest since 1901, the Secretary reported. This is 1,625,000 below 1944 production, and 4,803,000 bushels less than the 1934-1943 average of 22,318,000. Wet weather, which resulted in heavy vine growth and spread of disease, was responsible for an average yield of only 113 bushels per acre, 3 less than last year. Due to shortage of labor and machines, growers planted only 157,000 acres this year, or 10,000 less than 1944.

Small, unsprayed acreages became badly blighted during the growing season and some failed to return the value of the seed. Digging was greatly delayed by October rains and in some northwestern areas farmers had to dig their crops out of the mud.

In the Cambria-Somerset area fair to good yields were obtained where sprayed. Fields on gravel or well-drained soil, where sprayed, turned up good yields of high quality potatoes in the Lehigh-Northampton area. Potatoes in the Hegins Valley of Schuylkill County yielded better than ever, graded out well and were of excellent quality. Throughout the other counties, and in the southeast in particular, crops were good in some sections and not so good in others, but generally infected by blight, and by rot on low ground.

The percentage of U. S. No. 1 grade from the commercial potato survey showed 72 per cent compared with 70 per cent last year.

Newest developments in cultural and marketing methods for commercial potato growers will feature the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Association on January 23 and 24 in Harrisburg, during Farm Show Week.

Winter Good Time To Check on Farm Safety Hazards

ALTHOUGH the third national observance of Farm Safety Week has been set for July 21-27, 1946, Secretary Horst reminds all farm people that the winter months are ideal for surveying and taking action on safety measures about the farm buildings and the farm home.

Many needed building and machinery repairs can be done at this season of the year and before the rush of spring work removes the possibility for doing such jobs, he said.

Because the need for continuing high food production efforts during 1946 will be as important as it was during the war, the Secretary pointed out that the need for accident prevention on the farms continues as a "must" program in farm management.

There will be little opportunity to replace badly worn farm machinery and equipment before next summer or fall, and he says special efforts will be made this winter by good farm managers to do the best they can in the way of repairs to old equipment to make it safe for use. It still may be another year before new machines will appear on the market in sufficient supply to meet even emergency needs, the Secretary reminded, and he urges farmers to "play safe" at all times with old machinery.

With the supply of farm labor the lowest ever experienced in the State there is greater need than ever for keeping in safe repair all mechanized equipment on farms, he added.

A safety survey by every farm family will be the goal for national observance of 1946 Farm Safety Week. Secretary Horst suggests that the best records at that time will be attained by farm families who have taken precautions during winter months to eliminate fire and accident hazards in and about farm buildings and homes.

"Make your farm safety survey now," he urges farmers, "and see what hazards can be eliminated by July."

POULTRYMEN SHIFT BACK TO THE LIGHTER BREEDS

HAND IN HAND with the fall decline in poultry prices, the demand for baby chicks dropped rather sharply throughout Pennsylvania during October and several hatcheries reported that cancellations of orders had forced them to close, Secretary Horst said following a Federal-State survey of hatchery production.

When red meat was scarce last spring and summer, poultrymen of Pennsylvania, as in other states, besieged hatcheries for chicks of the heavier breeds which would produce more meat from the same feed than would the lighter breeds which excell in the production of eggs.

Secretary Horst said some hatcherymen reported that orders on hand indicated a shift back to the laying breeds since butcher shops are supplying larger quantities of other meats. He believes this change eventually may mean more eggs, but that the overall production of poultry meat will continue at a rate sufficiently high to meet consumer demands.

Hatcherymen say the outlook for next season in baby chick production continues good, with bookings November 1 in excess of a year previous.

During October hatcheries of the State turned out 2,650,000 baby chicks compared with 1,776,000 for the same month last year and the 5-year average (1939-43) of 1,366,000 for October. From January 1 through October, Pennsylvania production was 81,485,000 chicks, approximately 24 million greater than for the same period in 1944.

PA1.24/4

Pennsylvania State

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, December 6, 1945 | No. 49

Milk Consumption Exceeds Supply In Parts of State

ALTHOUGH milk production to November 1 this year on Pennsylvania farms has been at all-time record levels, increased consumption is a chief factor in reports to the State Department of Agriculture that in some areas demand for fluid milk has been exceeding the supply.

Part of the increased consumption is attributed to the craving by returning servicemen for fresh milk, it was said.

In areas where there have been shortages in milk, notably in some western Pennsylvania counties, the temporary condition is attributed by Secretary Horst to various reasons.

"Skilled dairy labor is hard to get," he said, "and the protein content of diminishing food supplies is dropping. The hay crop this year was not the best quality. Uncertainty of future prices has caused some farmers to let down in their production efforts.

"At this time there is no fear of a general milk shortage in Pennsylvania. Production in November and December is always the lowest of the year. We now have a record number of more than 952,000 milking cows, and even though production may be dropping for the remainder of the year, I feel that total production for 1945 will set a new record."

Production of milk this year is certain to exceed 5 billion pounds for the second time in the State's agricultural history, the Secretary added. The highest previous record was 1942 when the total was 5,022,000,000 pounds. For the first ten months of that year the output was 4,308,000,000 pounds. For the first ten months of this year production was 4,533,000,000 pounds, a jump of 5 per cent, assuring a new State record in 1945.

Month by month, milk production through October of this year has exceeded the same month a year earlier, from 2 to 11 per cent, Department records show.

MANY 1945 SPRING PIGS IN FARM BUTCHERINGS

BUTCHERING time is here again on Pennsylvania farms. The traditional "after Thanksgiving" period brought colder weather and several hundred thousand 1945 spring pigs, fattened to the right degree, will go under the knife in farm butcherings that will continue heavy through Christmas and into January as farm families pitch in for preparation of the winter's supply of pork, plus an occasional baby beef.

This year's spring crop of 410,000 pigs, although 28 per cent under the 1944 crop, will be supplemented for fall butchering by some few animals remaining from last fall's crop of 483,000 pigs. Some early 1945 summer pigs also will be slaughtered.

Thus will fall butcherings of 200 to 250 pound porkers on Keystone farms provide plenty of meat for farm families. Since the total of pigs raised this year represents a serious decline from the record 1943 production of approximately 1,357,000, when there was a national surplus, less meat from farm butcherings will reach town and city consumers than in other years.

Customers served direct by farmers—at their homes or at the farm or farmer's market—may expect more fresh and smoked sausage, scrapple or ponhaus, pudding, spareribs, fresh hams, shoulders and loin cuts of pork during the farm butchering season. But the supply is low, and the "more" may be confined to a relatively short period.

FRIED TURKEY

IT WON'T be long before home, hotel and restaurant menus may be featuring a new and delectable dish—fried turkey.

Consumer demand for small turkeys was met in part by greatly increased sale of "split" birds or turkeys cut in half for small families during the Thanksgiving season, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets reported.

"The practice may be expected to lead to dealers selling cut-up turkey the same as chickens have been sold for some time, in cut-up pieces, by weight and priced according to choice of cuts," according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg marketing activities in the Bureau.

"Those who have tried fried turkey report it to be delicious," he said. "Cut-up pieces can be simmered in a covered pan or skillet, or stewed before frying. While it is impossible to have the usual type of filling or 'stuffing' with fried turkey, so-called filling balls can be baked, and there will be no loss of gravy.

"Since Christmas dinner would not be Christmas dinner without a whole or half bird, the cut-up turkey, if it should become popular, could be more of a Sunday dinner feature during winter months after the holidays. Many Pennsylvania growers acquired poults during most of the summer months so that a good supply of young turkeys will extend into next spring."

He reported that the split turkey sale plan, first advocated and practiced during the depression years, was revived in many areas during the Thanksgiving season, and with remarkable success in the New York City markets. He expressed belief that demand for split turkeys, where the consumer gets all of one side of the bird, cut through the center from front to back, will increase during the Christmas turkey buying season.

Somerset Cleared Of Potato Wart

MOVING a step closer to elimination of potato wart disease in Pennsylvania, the Department, through a plant quarantine amendment issued by Secretary Horst, recently announced that the infestation in Somerset County had been cleared and that residents of Salisbury and the surrounding portion of Elk Lick Township will be permitted to plant any variety of potatoes in the future.

In the 26 years that potato wart quarantines have been in effect in various parts of the State, infestations have been removed from Huntingdon, Bedford, Indiana, Armstrong, and now Somerset County. The destructive disease is still known to be established in gardens in Luzerne, Carbon, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna, Cambria and Clearfield Counties.

Potato wart disease attacks the growing tubers and may proceed fast enough, when once established in the soil, to destroy completely the entire tuber and even the entire crop.

Release of the Salisbury area from the potato wart quarantine was made possible by soil treatment begun several seasons ago and completed in 1945 by the State Bureau of Plant Industry. The treatment consisted of the use of a fungicide in the soil which killed all of the spores of the disease organism. After the treatment is made the area is planted to susceptible varieties of potatoes and carefully checked for five years. If no potato wart diseased tubers are found any time during this period, it is felt that the ground is free from disease. The Salisbury area will be released from all quarantine restrictions January 15, 1946.

Potter County First With Soil District Under New Act

POTTER COUNTY has become the first in Pennsylvania to be established as a soil conservation district under the State Soil Conservation Law passed by the 1945 Legislature.

Official notice was received from the Potter board of county commissioners that they had adopted a resolution on December 1st declaring the entire county as a soil conservation district.

Secretary Horst, who is chairman of the State Soil Conservation Commission set up by the act, said that Potter County Commissioners have been asked to send petition blanks to officers of county-wide agricultural organizations so they might request representation for their organization to nominate farmers for appointment as members of a County Soil Conservation Board.

Eligibility of Potter county farm organizations will be passed upon by the State Commission at a meeting scheduled for December 18 in Harrisburg. A definition of a county-wide agricultural organization has been prepared by the State Commission to aid farm organizations in determining their eligibility to be named as one of the nominating groups. The Potter County farm groups approved by the State Commission will send delegates to a county-wide meeting for nomination of at least eight farmers, four of whom will be selected by the County Commissioners to serve on the County Soil Conservation District Board.

Secretary Horst to date has appeared at meetings of farmers to explain the new law in Crawford, Fulton and Centre Counties. He will meet with farmers of Somerset County at Somerset on December 20. Requests are on hand from Jefferson and Lehigh county commissioners for meetings as soon as suitable dates can be arranged.

The new law replaces an act of 1937 and provides for voluntary action by farmers and others to develop cooperatively an over-all county conservation program, and contains no compulsory features, the Secretary said.

200-Voice Rural Chorus at Opening

ORGANIZATION of a 200-voice rural chorus to participate in the opening convocation of the 30th annual Pennsylvania State Farm Show Week meetings of state-wide farm associations, is under way in various parts of the State.

Planned as a feature of the three days of meetings for thousands of farm people January 22, 23 and 24, this innovation for Farm Show Week programs will be presented Tuesday evening January 22 when Governor Edward Martin and others will address the farm groups in the Forum of the Education Building.

The singers, now being selected through cooperation of the various county farm agents in the State, will be the main attraction in a patriotic musical revue, "Dedication to Peace," written especially for the occasion by William R. Gordon, extension rural sociologist at the Pennsylvania State College. The huge rural chorus will be composed of volunteers, both individuals and groups such as church, grange or community quartets, choirs and choruses.

Rural singers interested in joining the chorus, the first of its kind to participate in Farm Show Week meeting programs, can obtain full details from their county agent at the county seat. Presentation of "Dedication to Peace" will be under the direction of Mr. Gordon, the author. An outstanding chorus director will coach and direct the singers.

PA 1.24/4

Pennsylvania State Library
DOCUMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, December 13, 1945 | No. 50

Governor Martin, Dean Myers Address Opening Session

GOVERNOR EDWARD MARTIN and Dr. William I. Myers, Dean of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, will be the speakers at the opening convocation of the 1946 State Farm Show Week educational meetings of more than 25 state-wide agricultural organizations on Tuesday evening, January 22, Secretary Horst has announced.

In accepting the invitation of the State Farm Show Commission to speak, Governor Martin makes a perfect score during his administration, having addressed the opening sessions of Farm Show Week meetings in 1943 and 1944.

Dean Myers is well known to many Pennsylvania farm groups. He has been dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell since November 1943, and prior to that time had been head of the college department of agricultural economics. He is expected to talk on current economic conditions as they affect the farmer.

Secretary Horst, as chairman of the State Farm Show Commission, sponsors of the 30th annual Farm Show Week educational meetings, will preside at the opening session. Farm groups will start sessions on the morning of that day and the meetings will run through Thursday, January 24. There will be no exhibits in the Farm Show Building.

A feature of the opening session this year will be the appearance of a 200-voice chorus made up of volunteer singers from rural areas of the State. Members of the group are now being signed up by the county farm agents in the various counties. They will participate in presentation of a patriotic musical revue, "Dedication to Peace," written for the occasion by W. R. Gordon, extension rural sociologist of the Pennsylvania State College. It is the first time that an effort of this kind has been attempted for agricultural groups in the State.

Egg Output Goes Up 6.5 Per Cent

IN SPITE of a continuing rise in feed costs, Pennsylvania farmers increased the number of laying hens and pullets during the month of November by 6.5 per cent over October, and the net result was production of 158,000,000 eggs, which was 6 million more than for the previous month, according to a Federal-State survey.

Feed costs were 7 per cent higher than during November 1944 and 1 per cent higher than in October of this year, the report stated. The price received for live chickens was 1 per cent below the October average but 0.4 per cent higher than during November 1944.

November egg production, although aided by mild, favorable weather, was 7 per cent below that for November of last year. For the 11-month period, January through November, the cumulative total of eggs produced this year is 2,267,000,000 or about 12 per cent below production during the same period in 1944.

Commercial poultrymen report a record high average price received for eggs in the past six years. Despite this, the egg-feed ratio dropped 1 point from the previous month and was 2 points less than during November a year ago. The cost of 100 pounds of laying mash in November averaged $3.76, an advance of 4 cents from October, and scratch feed went up 6 cents per hundred pounds to $3.25. At average prices received for eggs it took the value of 76 eggs to buy 100 pounds of feed, compared with 77 in October and 78 in November of last year.

FULTON COUNTY BECOMES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FULTON COUNTY has been officially recognized as a Soil Conservation District, the second county in the State to take advantage of the new soil conservation law passed by the 1945 Legislature.

Secretary Horst, chairman of the State Soil Conservation Commission, announced receipt of a certified copy of a resolution adopted December 8 by the Board of County Commissioners of Fulton County, in accordance with provisions of the new act.

Fulton therefore becomes the second Pennsylvania county to set up soil conservation activities on a county-wide basis. Announcement was made last week that Potter County Commissioners had been the first in the State to take the necessary action under the 1945 law.

Fulton Commissioners said their action followed earlier presentation to them of a number of petitions signed by a "substantial number" of farmers and farm owners. Steps have been taken to select members of the governing board for the district. It will be composed of four practical farmers and a member of the Board of County Commissioners.

Secretary Horst meets with Lehigh County Commissioners and farmers at Allentown on December 14 to explain operation of the new law. Similar meetings were scheduled at Brookville for Jefferson County commissioners and farmers on December 19 and in Somerset for commissioners and farmers of that county on December 20.

Milk Production Drops in November

ADDED to increased consumption of milk that has been creating scarcities recently in some sections of Pennsylvania, is a drop of 11 per cent in production on farms of the State for the month of November compared with October, the monthly dairy report of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service reveals.

Pennsylvania milk production for the month of November 1945 totaled 366,000,000 pounds. While this was only 1 per cent under that for November 1944, it marked the first time in 17 months that production for any one month has dropped below that for the same month of the previous year, officials said.

Milk output always drops to its lowest point in November and December, they explained. Up to November 1 production in the State this year was the highest on record and it is still believed that the backlog of production for the first 10 months of 1945 will be the means for making a new all-time record for Pennsylvania, it was said. Production from January through October was 5 per cent higher than in the same period for the record year of 1942 when production totaled 5,022,000,000 pounds for the 12 months.

In their efforts to maintain milk production, dairy farmers were feeding grain at the highest December 1 rate on record, a continuation of the high level which prevailed throughout the year.

"Late November was cool and stormy over much of the State," the report declared. "Quality of hay, feeds and other roughage is generally not the best. These factors, together with the change over to winter feeding rations which are varied as to composition because of the shortage of high protein feeds in some localities, have tended to reduce the production of milk."

Pennsylvania apple storage houses on October 1 held 232,000 bushels compared with 364,000 bushels on the same date in 1944. Pears totaled 6,000 bushels compared with 2,000 a year earlier.

Prices Show Slight Upturn in November As Grains Advance

IN COMMON with other sections of the country, the average of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers for principal agricultural products increased slightly during the month ended November 15, according to a survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

There was an advance of one point in the index of prices over October, due largely to seasonal increases in egg and wholesale milk prices, the report revealed. Based on average 1909-14 prices as 100, the index of 218 for November showed prices were 118 per cent above the base period. The November index is the highest since last August when it reached 221, and is 5 points below July's 223, the highest since the June 1920 record of 231.

Purchasing power of the farmer's dollar advanced 1 cent within the period to $1.25 or 5 cents higher than in November 1944. This value is based on the 1909-14 dollar being worth 100 cents, the Department explained.

With the exception of corn, which dropped 5 cents per bushel, and oats which showed no change, all grains advanced from 1 to 6 cents per bushel between October 15 and November 15. Potatoes are down 15 cents and apples up 45 cents a bushel.

The index of meat animals, as a group, showed no change from the previous month. Increases of 20 cents per hundred pounds for hogs and 30 cents for lambs were offset by decreases of 20 cents in veal calves and 30 cents in sheep. Price comparisons follow:

	Nov. 15 1944	Oct. 15 1945	Nov. 15 1945
Wheat, Bu	$ 1.50	$ 1.62	$ 1.66
Corn, Bu.	1.39	1.35	1.30
Oats, Bu.	.78	.77	.77
Barley, Bu.	1.20	1.20	1.21
Rye, Bu.	1.22	1.30	1.36
Buckwheat, Bu.	1.05	1.08	1.11
Soybeans, Bu.	2.00	2.00	2.05
Potatoes, Bu.	1.70	1.60	1.45
Hay, loose Ton	18.00	17.20	17.70
Apples, Bu.	2.15	3.60	4.05
Hogs, Cwt.	14.80	14.80	15.00
Beef cattle Cwt.	10.00	12.60	12.60
Veal calves, Cwt.	14.10	16.20	16.00
Sheep, Cwt.	4.65	6.00	5.70
Lambs, Cwt.	12.70	13.20	13.50
Milk cows, Head	149.00	149.00	152.00
Horses, Head	107.00	95.00	90.00
Mules, Head	124.00	124.00	121.00
Chickens, Lb.	.276	.292	.279
Turkeys, Lb.	.41	.40	.405
Milk, wholesale Cwt.	3.70	3.65	3.70
Milk, retail Qt.	.143	.143	.143
Butter, Lb.	.49	.49	.51
Butterfat, Lb.	.49	.50	.50
Eggs, Doz.	.499	.527	.550
Wool, Lb.	.44	.43	.45

Less Certified Seed Oats Available

LESS Pennsylvania certified seed oats will be available for planting next spring than last, due largely to wet weather conditions which seriously delayed planting and interfered with growth and harvesting of the crop.

Growers of oats who asked the Bureau of Plant Industry to make certification inspections during the 1945 growing seasons, entered 2,446 acres for such inspections. This compares with 2,846 acres entered last year. Agents found that 742 acres had to be rejected because of weather damage, mixture of varieties, and presence of noxious weeds and diseases. In 1944 the acreage rejected totaled 862. This year 1,704 acres of oats met field certification tests. Last year 1,985 acres were approved.

Once more the variety known as "Vicland" led all others in the acreage certified, a total of 1,116 acres meeting State requirements. Other varieties and their acreages include: Cornellian, 185; Patterson, 174; Beaver, 157; Boone, 40; Penn'a 90-A-27, 21; and Wayne, 10 acres. A list of growers is available on request to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

PA1.24/4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MILES HORST, Secretary

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 — Harrisburg, December 20, 1945 — No. 51

Warns Against Overlooking the Farmer In Post-War Economic Adjustments

IN THE current period of post-war unrest, the "public, industry, capital and labor cannot afford to overlook the interests of the farmer, the source of their food supplies," Secretary Horst declared recently.

"After World War I all these groups forgot the farmer, and I am afraid it is happening again," he told 100 representatives of more than 100,000 Pennsylvania farmer members of 32 state-wide farm associations attending the annual meeting of the State Council of Farm Organizations in Harrisburg on December 18.

The Secretary declared that the same forces which brought on inflation and panic after the last war are in operation today. The farmer was one of the "forgotten men" at that time, he said, and it required all-out production in World War II to get agriculture back on its feet.

"In economic adjustments of the near future our national leaders must see that the farmer receives his just share of the national income," the speaker cautioned. "Otherwise, the consuming public is sure to be the loser. High industrial wages and cheap food will not make for a strong America.

"Right now the farmer needs and must have the sympathic understanding of the public, labor, capital and industry. He wants to cooperate. He needs the cooperation of others. He ought to be sitting in on more state and national conferences where policy and action decisions are being made. A wise public will insist on this. Its very existence comes from the soil."

The Farmer and Airplanes

Concern about increased shortages of livestock feed, the inability to obtain new farm machinery, the high cost of farm labor and uncertainty of prices for the coming months held interest of the Council delegates. Cooperative marketing problems were discussed, featured by a talk on the agricultural aspects of forthcoming developments in aviation and the transportation of food by air, given by Harry Woodhead, New York, president of the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation. He predicted the airplane will create revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of the American farmer, and said eventually the air age will benefit the farmer even more than the city.

"The American farmer has been among the first to realize how useful the airplane can be in all sorts of daily chores," Woodhead said. "He is using the plane as an everyday practical tool for making a living."

Specific instances of such uses, Woodhead continued, include aerial planting, pest control, fire-fighting, marketing, emergency missions of all types, and transportation to and from various portions of larger farms and ranches.

"Cost of flying is a subject that concerns anyone who starts wondering whether he should have a plane of his own," he said. "Here the farmer has an advantage over almost all other citizens.

"He knows machines inside and out and chances are one of his sons or nephews or neighbors was one of the 3,000,000 men in the air and ground crews of our Air Forces."

Re-elect Officers

Council of Farm Organizations re-elected officers for another term as follows: president, Ralph E. Culver, Lacyville, Bradford County; vice president, B. H. Welty, Waynesboro, Franklin County; secretary-treasurer, Joab K. Mahood, Troy, Bradford County, who is secretary of the State Grange.

Resolutions adopted by the Council welcomed Dr. Lyman E. Jackson, now president of the South Dakota State College, to the deanship of the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College, and advised him that the Council would be "grateful for any opportunity to join with him in advancing the cause of agriculture in Pennsylvania."

Another resolution supported the erection of a building to house the plant industries activities for the School of Agriculture at Penn State.

Farm Value Per Acre 45 Pct. Over Pre-War Average

MORE caution has been taken in the buying of Pennsylvania farms since the end of the war than during the war, Secretary Horst said in revealing that per acre value of farm land during the 4-month period ended November 1 had reached a level that is 45 per cent higher than the pre-war 5-year average, 1935-39. For the entire United States, acre values on November 1 were 60 per cent above the 1935-39 average.

While there has been a dropping off in the volume of voluntary farm sales in Pennsylvania since last July, the acre value of places sold jumped 3 points since then and is now at the highest level since the farm boom days of the 1920 inflation period, according to information gathered by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service.

Based on average values per acre as 100 in 1912 to 1914, the Pennsylvania index for March 1920 was 140, and for March 1945 it was 123. Following the 1920 peak, the acre value index hit a low of 78 in 1933 and stood at 90 in 1940 when the war in Europe was under way.

The Secretary said he doubted if Pennsylvania land values would pass the 1920 mark since there is evidence that the tendency to pay excessive prices is decreasing.

"However," he cautioned, "the next six months should be the crucial period since unsettled labor conditions, unsatisfied consumer demand and other inflationary forces present in 1919 are again in evidence."

Federal-State records show that, compared with 1935-39 averages, March 1 Pennsylvania farm values per acre were 24 per cent higher in 1943, and were 31 per cent higher in 1944. Last March the advance reached 42 per cent, remained at that figure July 1, and advanced only 3 points between July 1 and November 1.

Most Pennsylvania farm sales in the past year have been to persons who will operate the farms themselves, it was said. Many transfers have been to sons and sons-in-law from older farmers who are retiring. Returning veterans, and former farmers who went into industry for the duration of the war, have been buying farms also. A great percentage of financing is by local commercial banks and individuals.

Safety Talks at Farm Show Meets

THE growing need for safety measures on the farm and in the farm home is reflected in the attention it will be given by various farm organizations that have scheduled special talks on safety practices for their meetings during the 30th annual State Farm Show Week educational meetings January 22 to 24.

Five farm associations already have scheduled safety speakers on their programs. Under auspices of the Pennsylvania Rural Safety Committee, of which Harrison S. Nolt, Columbia, Lancaster County, is chairman, the speakers are to be W. E. Stuckey, farm safety specialist for the State of Ohio, and Harry C. Woods, secretary of the Lehigh Valley Safety Council.

Stuckey is to tell the State Vegetable Growers, Association members how to "farm safely"; will address the Pennsylvania Holstein Association on "rural safety"; will talk to a combined meeting of all swine breeding associations on "The Importance of Safety Precautions in Handling the Swine Herd"; and will offer suggestions on safe practices in handling bees to members of the State Beekeepers' Association.

"Farm and Home Safety" is the topic assigned Woods by the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club. Expressing his pleasure in the fact that so many of the state-wide farm groups are stressing farm safety, Secretary Horst said the cooperation given the State Rural Safety Committee is most encouraging and should result in reducing the number of accidents on Pennsylvania farms.

Quality Certified Seed Potatoes

A SHARP reduction in the amount of Pennsylvania State certified seed potatoes produced this year for planting next spring, compared with other recent years, is announced by the Department. While the crop inspected this year showed higher disease counts than usual, the market quality of the crop harvested is estimated to be considerably above the average of recent years.

Production in 1945 of 192,222 bushels of certified seed potatoes was 105,218 less than in 1944 and approximately 115,600 under the record of 307,834 bushels in 1943, according to a report by K. W. Lauer, in charge of seed certification work in the Bureau of Plant Industry. Production in 1941 was more than 241,000 bushels, and in 1942 it was over 211,000 Lauer said.

The severe drop this year is attributed to fewer acres entered by growers for certification, heavier than usual rejections because of diseases found during the growing season, and a lower average yield per acre. Wet weather that prevailed during most of the growing season aided in the spread of late blight and other diseases. Last year 45 per cent of the total acreage entered for certification was rejected. This year approximately 57 per cent of the 1,801 acres entered were rejected.

Yield per acre dropped from 278.5 bushels last year to 247.8 this year. Out of a total of 101 growers who entered fields for State inspection, only 60 finally had their crops approved for certification. Seed potatoes were certified in 12 counties: Berks, Erie, Indiana, Lehigh, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Sullivan, Tioga, Warren, Wyoming and York.

Varieties certified in the order of their production are: Katahdin, Sebago, Russet, Green Mountain, Houma, Menominee, White Rural, Nittany and Sequoia.

Pennsylvania ranked 15th in the production of certified seed potatoes in 1944 among 30 states that are producing such seed. This State ranked first in the production of White Rurals, second in Russets, third in Sebagos, fourth in Katahdins, Houmas and Sequoias.

A list of Pennsylvania growers of 1945 certified seed potatoes is available on request to the Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

LOSSES IN HANDLING

FINANCIAL losses to handlers of turkeys for holiday dinners frequently are extremely high, according to E. J. Lawless, Jr., in charge of the poultry and egg division, Bureau of Markets.

In buying turkeys from members in its territory, one of the five Pennsylvania farmer egg cooperatives during the Thanksgiving period reported an overnight loss in weight for approximately 1,000 turkeys that brought a decline in revenue estimated at $175, Lawless said.

PA 1.24/4

Pennsylvania ...
Library ...

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

MILES HORST, Secretary

Entered as Second Class Matter, June 23, 1909, at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pa., under Act of Congress, June 6, 1900

Vol. 30 | Harrisburg, December 27, 1945 | No. 52

Louis Bromfield and Many Other Visiting Speakers to Address Farm Show Meetings

LOUIS Bromfield, nationally known Ohio farmer-author, is among a score or more of out-of-state agriculturists scheduled to speak at sessions of state-wide farm organizations during the 30th annual State Farm Show Week educational meetings here January 22, 23 and 24, under direction of the State Farm Show Commission.

Dr. William I. Myers, dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, is to appear on the opening session program with Governor Martin on Tuesday evening, January 22.

In addition to the many out-of-state speakers, more than 200 members of the 25 state-wide agricultural associations and representatives of the Pennsylvania State College will address various meetings. There will be no exhibits in the Farm Show Building this year. Bromfield is to follow Secretary Horst in addressing the annual banquet of the Pennsylvania Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association on Wednesday evening, January 23. On the same evening the annual dinner meeting of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association will be addressed by Dr. Roger Corbett, Secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Chicago.

Among other well-known agricultural leaders and educators slated to participate in various Farm Show Week meetings are: G. M. Cairns, University of Maryland, who will address the Ayrshire Breeders' Association; R. D. Lewis, chairman of the department of agronomy at Ohio State University, appearing before the Crop Improvement Association; and M. H. Fohrman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at the Dairymen's Association meeting.

Ladd Haystead, editor of the Farm Column of Fortune Magazine, and Don Rose, columnist for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin will address the annual luncheon of the Guernsey Breeders' Association. M. S. Prescott, editor of the Holstein-Friesian World is to address the Holstein Association. A series of talks on farm safety is scheduled before several different farm associations by W. E. Stuckey, Ohio State farm safety specialist.

The State Horticultural Association will hear messages on new developments in growing and marketing fruits from: E. A. Meyer, U. S. Department of Agriculture; P. C. Turner, president and manager of the Food Producers' Council, Baltimore; Dr. Frank App, Seabrook Farms, Bridgeton, N. J.; L. L. Rummell, the Kroger Grocery and Baking Company, Cincinnati, O.; Carroll R. Miller, manager, Appalachian Apple Service Martinsburg, W. Va.; Dr. B. A. Porter, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and others.

The State Potato Growers' Association at its annual banquet Thursday evening January 24, will be addressed by Edward J. Condon, Sears, Roebuck and Company, Chicago; Dr. C. M. McConnell, Boston University, and Secretary Horst.

Turkey growers will hear about selling turkeys in halves and quarters from C. F. Smith, eastern manager, Poultry and Egg National Board, New York. They will be addressed also by F. R. Beaudette, Rutgers University, and Alfred Van Wagenen, Northeastern Poultry Producers' Council, Trenton, N. J.

Experiments in the sale of fresh vegetables in cellophane wrapping will be described at the meeting of vegetable growers by Dr. C. R. Hauck, Ohio State University.

Ex-G. I. Directs Rural Chorus

In preparation for the patriotic musical revue to feature the opening of the 1946 Pennsylvania State Farm Show educational meetings with a 200-voice rural chorus, those in charge of the program have announced that an ex-GI has been chosen to direct the large chorus—first of its kind ever attempted for a Farm Show program.

The chorus, now being recruited from rural singers throughout the State, will sing Tuesday evening, January 22, in the Forum at Harrisburg, on the program at which Governor Edward Martin, Dean William I. Myers, New York State College of Agriculture and State Secretary of Agriculture Miles Horst will speak. The music will be part of the musical revue, "Dedication to Peace," specially written for the occasion by William R. Gordon, extension rural sociologist of the Pennsylvania State College.

Chosen to direct the chorus is William J. Cupp, who is now located at New Bloomfield, Perry County. Cupp, fresh out of his soldier's uniform, has an impressive musical background. After receiving his fundamental training from private teachers, he won an opera scholarship to the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y., where he studied under Adelin Fermin, the teacher of John Charles Thomas. He also studied conducting, under the school's leading maestro, Herman Genhart, and was graduated with a degree as a voice performer, qualified to sing professionally on the concert stage.

Following graduation, Cupp embarked on a professional music career, singing on NBC programs, on the concert stage in various cities, and in operatic productions at Rochester. At the time he enlisted in the Army, he was conducting three choruses at Bangor, Maine.

During his first week at Camp Lee, Va., Cupp was awarded a cash prize as best director in a contest of groups of Army singers. On that particular occasion, Cupp, then a private, had rounded up a group of singers from the Sixth Quartermaster Regiment, and in a single day's time, whipped them into a presentable men's chorus. His group moved into the finals, only to lose the stiff competition to a lengthily-trained unit specializing in Negro spirituals.

With the 200-voice rural chorus, Cupp will have only one afternoon's rehearsal to prepare for the Farm Show opener, although men and women volunteer singers are already practicing their parts at home.

STATE SOIL COMMISSION RATIFIES TWO DISTRICTS

OFFICIAL recognition of the organization of Potter and Fulton Counties as county-wide Soil Conservation Districts under the Act of 1945 was given by the State Soil Conservation Commission at a meeting on December 18 in the office of Chairman Horst. They are the first to be organized through resolution of their respective Boards of County Commissioners.

Lists of county-wide farmer organizations were approved for each county for the purpose of sending delegates to a meeting to nominate eight practical farmers for selection of four by County Commissioners to serve as members of the District Board of Soil Conservation Directors. The fifth director in each case will be a member of the Board of County Commissioners, as provided by law.

Chairman Horst was authorized to appoint a representative of the Commission to an advisory committee on soil and forest conservation being organized by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin.

Chairman Horst and Deputy Secretary W. S. Hagar, Executive Secretary of the Commission, met December 14 at Allentown with Lehigh County Commissioners and farmers and on December 19 with Jefferson County farmers and County Commissioners at Brookville to explain the soil conservation law. On December 20 they met at Somerset with Somerset County Commissioners and farmers for the same purpose. Various other counties are arranging similar sessions under auspices of County Commissioners.

1945 Lowest For Pork Production In the War Years

THE year 1945 proved to be the lowest of all the war years for pork production on Pennsylvania Farms, according to the annual fall pig crop survey by the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, conducted with the assistance of rural mail carriers of the State.

The number of pigs saved from fall farrowings, counting all litters farrowed between June 1 and December 1, 1945, totaled 482,000 compared with 483,000 for the same period in 1944. Pigs saved from spring farrowings, December 1, 1944 to June 1, 1945, totaled 410,000 compared with 570,000 the same period a year earlier, making a grand total for 1945 of only 892,000, or 15 per cent below 1944.

No hope for increasing pig production during 1946 is given in the report. Farmers have indicated intentions to breed only 63,000 sows for spring farrowings, exactly the same number that farrowed in the spring of 1945. For the 1945 fall crop a total of 73,000 sows farrowed. Although this was 2,000 more than for the fall of 1944, one thousand fewer pigs were saved, since the average size of litters fell from 6.8 to 6.6.

In reviewing pig crops of the four war years, it was found that the all-time peak was reached in 1943 with a total of 1,357,000 pigs, or 32 per cent more than the 1,031,000 pigs saved in 1942. Low prices and scarcity of feed prompted farmers of the State to divert much of their available feed for production of milk and eggs, and in 1944 the spring and fall pig crops declined to 1,053,000. Production continued to drop last year, the total being 161,000 less than 1944 and 465,000 under the 1943 record.

Nationally, the number of pigs saved in 1945 was about the same as in 1944. The fall crop of 35,144,000 was 12 per cent larger than the 1944 fall crop. Adding the spring crop of 51,570,000 head, which was down 7 per cent from 1944, the total 1945 crop of 86,714,000 is practically the same as the 86,668,000 head in 1944, but 29 per cent below the 1943 record. The number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1946 is expected to exceed those in 1945 by four percent.

CHICK OUTPUT CONTINUES UP DURING NOVEMBER

A CONTINUING increase in the number of baby chicks produced by commercial hatcheries of Pennsylvania is reported through a recent Federal-State survey.

A number of hatcheries over the State, mostly small, resumed operations to a limited extent during the month of November. Those that did not close reported output greater than for November 1944. In spite of some cancellations of orders, hatcherymen continue rather optimistic with reported bookings December 1 exceeding December 1, 1944 by almost one-third, the report declared.

Pennsylvania production for November 1945, a total of 1,370,000 chicks, exceeded the previous November by 7 per cent. This was 165,000 more than the average for the month, 1939 to 1943. Total hatchings for the first eleven months of 1945, amounting to 82,855,000, are 41 per cent greater than for the corresponding period in 1944.

National production of chicks in November, 39,399,000, was the largest of record for that month, 27 per cent higher than for November 1944.

Production goals recommended by the Federal government for 1946 are for a reduction of 15 per cent from 1945 for eggs and 17 per cent reduction for chickens, the report said. The lower goals are accounted for by the reduction in military and lend-lease requirements, it was explained.

PA 1.24/4

End of Volume

End of Title